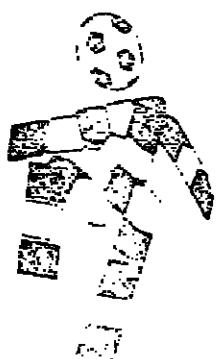


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£2.5bn but no new capping powers

Patten wins cabinet battle on poll tax

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CHRIS Patten has secured an extra £2.5 billion to hold down poll tax bills next year and won his battle within the cabinet against the introduction of extensive new legislation on the community charge in the run-up to the next election.

The environment secretary has persuaded Margaret Thatcher and John Major that the government's powers to curb council spending are powerful enough to rule out the need for a draconian new bill. This also means that about three-quarters of all local authorities will continue to be exempt from capping because their budgets are below the £15 million qualifying mark.

The extra £2.5 billion in central government grants to local authorities will help cushion next year's rises in bills to charge-payers. On top of this, additional money will probably be made available to pay for more generous transitional relief to individuals particularly hard hit by the switch from rates to the community charge.

Environment department sources said yesterday that the internal cabinet wrangling had been "rough" over the past three months, but that the atmosphere had improved in recent days as the outlines of a settlement became clearer.

Their main concern is that the package may be regarded as unsatisfactory by the many

backbench Tory critics of the poll tax who, in the words of one insider, are "just waiting to sink their claws into it".

Mr Patten's package of measures aimed at easing the political pain inflicted on the Conservatives by the introduction of the poll tax in April was approved in principle at a Downing Street meeting yesterday afternoon.

The talks, chaired by Mrs Thatcher, lasted nearly two hours. Among the cabinet ministers present were Mr Major and Kenneth Baker, the party chairman.

Mr Patten is now close to obtaining final approval of the full cabinet for his proposals. He expected to make a Commons statement on his package and the level of revenue support grant to councils the week after next.

Mr Patten has been supported by Mr Baker and Malcolm Rifkind, the Scottish secretary, in arguing that his existing powers to cap council spending do not need to be strengthened. With the support of Timothy Rennell, the government chief whip, they have warned that a capping bill in the next session of parliament would be used by dissident Tory backbenchers as a vehicle for further damaging rebellions over the principles underpinning the community charge. There will probably be a small, tightly drawn piece of legislation dealing with "technical" matters such as the position of caravan owners.

Mrs Thatcher has been determined to find a way of curbing council spending, running at £36.6 billion this year, almost £4 billion above Whitehall targets. She was attracted by the idea of subjecting councils to local referendums if they breach spending ceilings, but has been persuaded to delay such a step, at least until the next Tory manifesto.

The two court rulings upholding Mr Patten's action in capping 21 councils for "excessive" spending this year have proved crucial to the debate within the group of ministers reviewing the community charge. Mr Patten has been able to reassure Mrs Thatcher by pointing to his vindication in the courts as

evidence that the existing legislation will enable him to cap far more widely next year if councils fail to heed ministerial warnings about spending. Only the law lords, who are due to rule on an appeal this month, can upset these calculations.

The extent of the government's existing capping powers was drummed home last week by Michael Portillo, the local government minister, who said that next year ministers would be able to cap on the basis of year-on-year increases in budgets as well as spending levels judged to be "substantially excessive".

Mrs Thatcher will demand that when Mr Patten makes his statement to MPs, about a week before they rise for the summer recess, he leaves local authorities in no doubt about his determination to take a tough line with high spenders and, if necessary, to cap more councils than the 21 singled out this year.

Environment sources said that the extra cash agreed between Mr Patten and Mr Major at a meeting last week would steer a course mid-way between backbenchers and council leaders calling for a huge cash injection, and those opposed to throwing money at it. They remain apprehensive about how it will be received by Tory MPs, many of whom are worried that another round of big increases in bills next spring could scupper their chances of holding their seats in a general election later in the year.

It will not be enough to satisfy council leaders, who meet Mr Patten today to press their case for an extra £5-£8 billion. The Association of Metropolitan Authorities said yesterday that the average poll tax would rise to £501 from £360 this year if government funding remained the same.

Earlier, Italians had attacked a camp site where more than 3,000 Englishmen were staying, and police fired 20 rounds of tear gas to separate the groups.

If the summit communiqué promises dramatic changes in NATO's structure and emphasises political co-operation with the Soviet Union, it will improve Mr Gorbachev's chances of selling German NATO membership to sceptical Soviet military leaders and party members.

At the game itself, an evenly matched first half was characterised by a series of missed chances, but West Germany took the lead after 59 minutes when Breitner's shot from a free kick was deflected past Shilton by Parker.

● Despite some obstacles, most computers had left work early enough to be sitting in front of television sets before the match started (Lin Jenkins writes). AA Roadwatch reported that commuters in the northeast were quickest off the mark, causing jams from around 3.30pm.

President Bush and the other NATO leaders arrived in London last night to face two

Payment survey, page 2

INSIDE

Scargill faces new enquiry

Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, is to face a fresh enquiry into what became of £1 million donated by Soviet miners to help their British counterparts during the year-long strike.

The union's national executive committee has decided to ask a leading lawyer specialising in international law to conduct further investigations into the affair. Page 22

Fewer jobs

The number of vacancies offered by employers to graduates since last November has fallen by 12 per cent, it was disclosed yesterday. Page 3

Press curbs

Louis Blom-Cooper, chairman of the Press Council, replies for the first time to the Calcutta committee's proposals on curbing the press. Page 12

Rail loss

Losses from last year's rail strikes combined with a decline in leisure travel to send British Rail into the red for the first time in five years. Sir Robert Reid, the chairman, said yesterday. Pages 5, 22

Pound up

Sterling continued to gain yesterday in anticipation of Britain's early entry to the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System. By the close the pound added another 0.4 points on its trade-weighted index to 92.7. Page 23

Wet start

Rain diluted the Pimms on the first day of Henley Royal Regatta yesterday and delayed play at Wimbledon, where the men's first three seeds, Lendl, Becker and Edberg, all won their matches. Pages 38, 41, 42

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Soviet troops storm Bundesbank for marks

From ANNE MCLEVY
IN EAST BERLIN

A DOZEN sirens screamed, 30 officers dismounted from military buses brandishing their Kalashnikovs and a cavalcade of police and Soviet army vehicles with lights flashing sped through the heart of East Berlin. The soldiers had business at the bank.

Two officers presented their credentials at the Bundesbank's new East Berlin headquarters yesterday and announced to the cashier: "We would like to cash a cheque." They then picked up what a Bundesbank spokesman would confirm only as a "two-figure million-mark sum" to pay the Soviet army's 360,000 troops stationed in East Germany their first allowance in German marks.

The money was withdrawn from the East German state budget after an

agreement last week that East Berlin would supply the soldiers' living allowance in hard currency in return for raw materials from the Soviet Union. The deal which effectively means a preferential exchange rate for the Soviet Union is worth 1.24 billion marks (£42.8 million) and was reached after Moscow said that it was unable to meet the cost of supporting its troops after currency union with the West.

The Bundesbank has moved into the former Communist party headquarters and now bears the incongruous address Marx-Engels Platz on its headed notepaper. Until 1945 the building housed the Reichsbank, the financial centre of the Nazi regime. The four-storey vaults are now being used to store German marks.

A spokesman for the bank said that

the Soviet army "simply turned up with a cheque for the amount", probably enough to cover payments for a month. "They obviously took the security aspect very seriously indeed, although I don't think anyone here would mess with them."

Soviet soldiers stationed for two years in East Germany received a meagre allowance of between 15 and 25 old marks monthly but were still envious because they had access to the wider range of goods available in East German shops than at home.

The amount has remained the same in German marks to the chagrin of the troops. The army newspaper, *Krasnaya Sloboda*, commented yesterday that the changeover did not mean "paradisical times" ahead for the soldiers as prices for basic goods, including the popular East German

beer, have doubled since the disappearance of the old currency on Sunday.

● Jobless protests: Thousands of East German workers, alarmed by soaring unemployment, staged wildcat strikes all over the country yesterday to back demands for more pay, job security and shorter working hours (Reuters reports).

The walkouts, which in many areas turned into protest marches, coincided with labour ministry data showing 142,000 jobless in June, a rise of 47,000 or almost 50 per cent over the previous month. Economists believe up to two million of the country's nine million workers will be unemployed by January.

Election date agreed, page 10
Unemployment fears, page 23

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Fall stretch: West Germany's goalkeeper, Bodo Illgner, making a flying save from Paul Gascoigne as England exerted pressure in Turin last night

Violence opens day of semi-final

From JOHN GOODBODY
IN TURIN

ENGLISH football supporters were again involved in violence as tension mounted before the World Cup semi-final against West Germany in Turin yesterday. A German was stabbed and an Englishman suffered slight head injuries after a running fight which was broken up by riot police.

Earlier, Italians had attacked a camp site where more than 3,000 Englishmen were staying, and police fired 20 rounds of tear gas to separate the groups.

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President Bush and the other NATO leaders arrived in London last night to face two

Nato may send envoy to boost Gorbachev

By PETER STOTHARD AND MICHAEL EVANS

THE United States is to ask Nato to send a special envoy to Moscow, to present what it hopes will be the "reassuring" results of the London summit which begins at Lancaster House today.

The summit envoy, who could be Manfred Wörner, Nato secretary general, or possibly a group of Nato foreign ministers, would fly to the Soviet capital on Sunday.

The Communist party congress, in which President Gorbachev has been criticised for "losing" Eastern Europe and permitting the resurgence of German power, would not be in progress that day.

If the summit communiqué promises dramatic changes in NATO's structure and emphasises political co-operation with the Soviet Union, it will improve Mr Gorbachev's chances of selling German NATO membership to sceptical Soviet military leaders and party members.

The handing over of "a piece of paper" to Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, would be a potential propaganda coup which would not only help Mr Gorbachev face his critics at home, but would also reassure the West about the prospect of peace and its financial dividends.

President Bush and the other NATO leaders arrived in London last night to face two

Early indications yesterday

suggested, however, that some of the smaller members of Nato want a more substantial change in the alliance's long-standing strategy. One Nato diplomat said: "The US and Britain want to make Nato appear more of a political than a military force. Others want it to be only a political force."

Among the ideas proposed by George Bush is the suggestion that Nato leaders declare the organisation's nuclear weapons as armaments of the "last resort". He hopes this will be interpreted in Moscow as a reassuring change in nuclear doctrine, although it will maintain the American position that a "mix" of nuclear and conventional forces is still essential to Western security.

There have also been suggestions that Nato should guarantee a reduction in its forces along the frontier with Eastern Europe.

Rift on future role, page 10
Soviet congress, page 11
Leading article, page 13

Hospitals apply for trust status

By PHILIP WEBSTER

TWELVE health service units, including Europe's largest teaching hospital, have applied to become self-governing in the five days since the government's reforms became law, Kenneth Clarke said yesterday.

The health secretary announced in the Commons that a further 25 had promised early applications. The requests received so far include St James's University Hospital, Leeds, the largest teaching hospital in Europe, the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, and the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital.

Mr Clarke said applications had also been received from Bradford acute services; Leeds General Infirmary and associated hospitals; Central Middlesex and North Middlesex hospitals; Southend district services; Crewe acute services; Liverpool regional adult cardio-thoracic unit; East Gloucestershire services; and the Mid-Surrey general unit.

Bart's decision, page 7

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Brooke: his room for manoeuvre restricted

Ulster discord over aims as Brooke draws up progress report

BY EDWARD GORMAN
IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

AS PETER BROOKE, the Northern Ireland secretary, prepares to brief the Commons today on the progress in initiating talks in Ulster, there are ominous signs of conceptual differences between the parties on what those talks might discuss.

Mr Brooke is expected to offer a general outline of the advance he has made and give some indication of how the process will develop over the coming months when he opens the renewal debate on direct rule for Northern Ireland.

His comments and room for manoeuvre will be restricted by unresolved differences with the Irish government over guarantees of its precise role in

dimension, and between Dublin and Ulster politicians on north-south aspects.

Originally, today's debate had been envisaged as an opportunity for Mr Brooke to make a formal statement bringing to a close the opening phase and giving way to a period of bilateral exchanges before the talks start, possibly as early as September. Continuing problems with Dublin, however, have thwarted him and called into question for the first time in the process the Northern Ireland Office's handling of its presentation. Mr Brooke has always said he does not want to be trammeled by deadlines.

More worrying are the emerging signs of the possibly irreconcilable gulf in approach between unionists and nationalists on what talks might discuss.

Unionists are now talking of an "integrationist solution" to the Irish question which deals with three sets of relationships. It involves talks during a two-month pre-arranged gap in meetings of the Anglo-Irish conference between the parties in Northern Ireland on devolution, between London and Dublin on the Anglo-Irish

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Times poll tax survey

Boycott campaign fails as three in four people pay up

BY DOUGLAS BROOM AND ELAINE FOGG

ATTEMPTS to organise a large-scale boycott of the community charge in England appear to have failed, with more than three quarters paying the charge.

A random survey of 38 district, metropolitan and London councils conducted by *The Times* found that an average of 75.8 per cent of eligible adults had made at least some payment towards their poll tax bills.

The survey was conducted on the eve of today's meeting in London between leaders of the local government associations and ministers at the environment department to discuss council spending for next year.

On the local government side there is all-party agreement that the government must provide an extra £4 billion in central grant to councils next year to prevent a steep rise in poll tax bills. Chris Patten, the environment secretary, is believed to have secured slightly less than £3 billion from the treasury.

The Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities said that for every £1 billion that grant fell short of its £4 billion target, poll tax bills would rise by £28 a head.

Collection levels, which have been badly hit in some areas by serious computer problems, are better than many feared.

The mood among town hall

treasurers interviewed by *The Times* was generally cautiously optimistic, with many believing that the issuing of formal reminders over the next few weeks would prompt a large number of non-payers to pay up.

Most expressed the view that a large percentage of those who had yet to pay their poll tax were waiting for the final reminder in the same way that many people did not pay telephone bills until they were sent a final demand.

Many admitted that their billing systems had got off to a slow start and had major said they were reluctant to go to court to enforce bills after a series of spectacularly unsuccessful attempts to summons charge payers in the courts.

In Newcastle upon Tyne John Wilcox, the city treasurer, has recovered 16 per cent of the metropolitan council's debt to date. In his authority only 30 per cent of those registered have failed to pay anything.

"We are just about to send out reminders. I expect the next set of figures I will receive will be an improvement. And as we begin to turn the screws our cash flow will be even better," he said.

In West Devon, controlled by independents, Mike Stephens, treasurer, said that of the hundreds of calls of complaint his department had

received, most had concerned the high amounts people had to pay rather than the concept of the poll tax.

"In the southwest, charges for holiday homes have caused a lot of consternation and anger," he said.

Despite fairly optimistic collection rates, many authorities felt that if poll tax deficiencies continued throughout the year at the same rate, it would sow financial problems for the coming year.

"It would be a matter of concern for us if we continued at these financial levels throughout the year," Reba Smith, chief revenues officer for Dudley metropolitan council, said.

"Although 85 per cent of people have paid something for the first two months, we could end up with a situation next year where people have to pay £61 extra on their bills," she said.

Labour-controlled Liverpool has yet to collate its poll tax returns as many people in the Merseyside authority have just received bills which were held up at the printers.

A spokesman said, however, it was a possibility from estimated figures that more than 130,000 court summonses would have to be issued in the metropolitan area.

Where councils have taken a tough line to recover the poll tax, high returns have ensued. Bootlebury district council in Humberston (Dorset) has already obtained 2,574 liability orders from magistrates to net 5 per cent of the register still to pay the new tax.

"Those who have not paid will have to complete means questionnaires. If they then subsequently break payment agreements with us we will go ahead and enforce the liability orders," Margaret Chadwick, Bootlebury's assistant treasurer, said.

Other councils have decided to opt for a more softly softly approach. The London borough of Barnet, which contains Mrs Thatcher's Finchley constituency, has said it has "positively decided" not to pursue any summonses yet. Rather than do this, it has opted to give the electorate a chance to get up to date.

Calderdale, which has been charge-capped despite having one of the lowest poll tax levels in England, said it was pleased with its 69 per cent collection rate, which was achieved despite the fact that many payers were adopting a "wait and see" approach to the council's legal challenge to capping.

In Alnwick, where a third of poll tax payers are also council tenants, a unique fortnightly joint rent and poll tax collection system was credited with leading to the 86 per cent collection rate.

At present when a lender asks agencies for information on an individual who wants credit, the agencies search

they padlocked one end of a chain to railings and pulled it across the road causing a traffic jam (Ray Clancy writes).

There were no arrests and the pensioners from around the country went on to a meeting at Central Hall, where speakers called for a minimum pension of £100 a week.

"It was all very good natured. They formed a human chain across the road but were happy to move away when asked to do so by officers," Scotland Yard's Harry Clark, chairman of the Pensioners' Rights Campaign, said, travelled from Carlisle, Cumbria, to attend.

had wanted to make an impact. We are not prepared to be issued any more," John Bradley, aged 66, of Hornchurch, Essex, said. It was unfair that pensioners in Britain received an average of £40.90 yet in other European countries the average was £26 a week.

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Registrar takes action on credit reference firms

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE FOUR big credit reference agencies are facing legal proceedings by the Data Protection Registrar to force them to take steps to end the passing on to lenders of information on third parties.

Eric Howe, the registrar, has been increasingly concerned about the practice, which he said yesterday had been estimated to "disadvantage some 100,000 people seeking credit a year" because wrong information was supplied about them.

His office has issued preliminary notices, the first step in the use of its statutory enforcement powers, to four main credit reference agencies, CCR Systems, Infodata, Westost Data and Credit and Data Marketing Services.

The move comes about after some two years of discussion. "They take one view of the law, but we take another," he said. "I believe this is a breach of the act. We have tried to sort out the matter in discussion, but clearly we are not going to solve it."

The notices warn the agencies of pending enforcement action under the Data Protection Act 1984. They can appeal, but if they ultimately lose they must comply with the notice or face being struck off, the Data Protection register.

However, she said the agencies were taking steps to stop using information about third parties who had lived at the applicant's address but at a different time. "We are doing this to redress the balance."

Population Trends: Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (Stationery Office; £6.75)

Ethnic minority now 2.58m

BY PAUL WILKINSON

BRITAIN'S ethnic minority community is now 2.58 million, or just short of 5 per cent of the country's population, according to the latest figures from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

The result is that a lender may receive from the credit agency not only information about the credit records of all members of an applicant's current household, but also similar information about the occupants of the first and second previous addresses at which the applicant has lived.

"Such information about other individuals occupying these previous addresses will be supplied irrespective of whether those individuals lived at that address at the same time as the applicant or not," the registrar's office said.

Alternatively, or even in addition, the lender may receive credit records of others in the neighbourhood.

Elizabeth Stanton, of the credit industry forum on data protection, defended the practice, saying that credit agencies did not believe that the use of information on third parties was a breach of the law.

"Our view is that it is all statistically predictive; that is, it is of some weight when assessing the probability of a person's repaying a loan."

However, she said the agencies were taking steps to stop using information about third parties who had lived at the applicant's address but at a different time. "We are doing this to redress the balance."

Population Trends: Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (Stationery Office; £6.75)

Saunders would have run a mile at illegality hint

ERNEST SAUNDERS, former Guinness chairman, yesterday he would have run a mile rather than risk breaking the law in the company's bid for Distillers.

He denied he was aware of speculation on the launch of the £2.7-billion offer in 1986 that a merger agreement between the brewing group and the Scottish whisky company had increased from 52,000 in 1981 to 91,000 in 1988. Over the same period the Pakistani population increased from 284,000 to 479,000, and the number of Indians increased marginally from 727,000 to 814,000.

The three races represent 51 per cent of the total ethnic minorities in the country. Nineteen per cent are West Indian and 5 per cent Chinese and 11 per cent (one in nine) are of mixed origin.

One cause of the increase is the rise in immigration levels, now running at an annual net rate of 17 per thousand population. Another factor is that among the Asian community, children represent a larger-than-average proportion. Lower child mortality rates throughout the population have therefore led to an increase in the ethnic minority community in proportion to the overall population.

Labour move on disabled

OVERTIME ban closes railways

Northern Ireland Railways yesterday shut down its entire network and laid off 500 staff as a three-day overtime dispute worsened (Edward Gorman writes). Roy Beattie, the chief executive, said that an overtime ban by workers had made it impractical and uneconomical to continue operating rail services.

The dispute centres on pay

compatability with British Rail employees.

There are hopes of progress when management and unions attend separate meetings with the Northern Ireland labour relations agency today. More than 60 employees have been dismissed and services disrupted.

WELSH BOMB

A letter bomb was received yesterday by Tim Alexander, an English hotel owner in Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog in Clwyd. The Army defused the device, which was similar to six sent recently to David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, two other MPs, and English-run businesses in Wales.

GP suspended

Dr Sudhir Mishra, who admitted spending only "five or six minutes" with a patient who died from meningitis within four hours of his visit, was suspended from practising for 12 months by the General Medical Council yesterday. He had allegedly diagnosed a stomach upset.

George Harper, Mr Rooker's agent, last night said the MP was confident of being re-elected. He said: "He has got the backing of all four wards.

There is a procedure to be followed, and he wants the proper procedure to go through." Mr Rooker had a majority of almost 7,000 in the general election.

Top museums

The National Heritage Museum of the Year Awards, sponsored by British Gas, were won jointly for only the second time. Winners were the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry and the Imperial War Museum.

Leading article, page 12

Bill for Sotheby's after Hoffmann fails at £1m

BY SARAH JANE CHECKLAND
ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

SOTHEBY'S was left with egg on its face, and a large bill, yesterday when their main Old Master painting, "The Hare in the Forest", by Hans Hoffmann, the Prague court artist, failed to sell when bids stopped at £1 million. The painting, which was estimated at £2 million to £3 million, was guaranteed.

Whatever happened in the sale, the auction house had undertaken to pay the anonymous vendor an agreed price. Probably just below the estimate, it could be the largest single amount the auction house had had to pay out to date. It follows a number of failed guaranteed sales at the London Impressionist sales last week, taking the total well beyond £1 million.

The practice of giving guarantees was first established by Sotheby's in the New York

symbol in the margin. London, although not legally forced to, followed suit, and a tiny circle can be seen beside the entry for the Hoffmann painting, which was given a separate glossy catalogue.

The painting, which was described yesterday by Mr Julian Stock of Sotheby's as

a masterpiece, was

rediscovered in New York in 1909, has been found at a country house in Scotland and acquired by the House of Commons Gallery (John Shaw writes).

Officials at the Commons knew of the painting's existence from prints, but only realised that it had been found when Phillips rang them to try to identify the other MP's. The auction house arranged a private treaty sale for an undisclosed price. Mr Malcolm Hay, curator of works of art at the Palace of Westminster, said: "The whereabouts of the original has remained a mystery which is why I was so excited when Phillips contacted me. It

is an important acquisition for the Old Master sale well worth £1 million. A lot of museums don't have much money at the moment."

This has been a bad week for Sotheby's, which has been dragged into New Scotland Yard's investigation into the Sevres silver hoard.

Apart from the Hoffmann, the Old Master sale went well.

There was a record for the Spanish artist de Ribera, at £2.75 million (estimate £2.5 million to £3.5 million), bought by Agnews for a client, thought to be the National Gallery in Washington.

Dunoon, Strathclyde. It was rediscovered by experts from Phillips the auctioneers as they cleared the house for a three-day sale of contents in Glasgow.

On The Terrace was hanging at Knockdown, ancestral home of the Lamont family near

extremely important, made its entry into the art world seven years ago, in classic "discoveries" circumstances.

It was found in the attic of a house in Yorkshire, having been given as a wedding present to a couple living there. Scholars identified it as the only known animal paint-

ing by Hans Hoffmann, court artist of the Emperor Rudolf II (1582-1612) of Prague. Heavily obscured by dirt, it sold for £407,000 at Sotheby's in 1983, and was this week being offered in a clean slate.

A spokesman said: "This could be the most expensive painting the company will have to pay a

Graduates face job competition as vacancies fall 12%

By TOM GILES

GRADUATES face increased competition for fewer jobs after a big fall in the number of vacancies being offered by employers since last November, it was disclosed yesterday.

In its twice-yearly survey of graduate vacancies and salaries, the Association of Graduate Recruiters said interest rate rises and signs of a slowing economy had resulted in employers reducing their graduate vacancies by 12 per cent from last November to May this year. Over the same period last year the number of vacancies rose by 8.5 per cent.

The survey, which was carried out for the association among 326 graduates employed by the Institute of Manpower Studies, concluded:

Speaking at the associ-

"This represents a dramatic downturn in expected demand. After several years of consistently high growth, the graduate labour market has slackened considerably."

Fifty per cent of employers surveyed had reduced their graduate requirements, compared with 39 per cent in the previous year. The drop was most marked in the industrial sector, where 13 per cent of companies had cut graduate vacancies. As a result, the number who predicted difficulties in recruiting students had dropped from 64 to 42 per cent, the biggest shift recorded in the graduate market since the association's surveys began 15 years ago.

Speaking at the associ-

GCSE and A-level should be ended, policy body says

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

GCSEs, A-levels and all other training awards should be scrapped and replaced by a British baccalaureate, a left-wing think tank said yesterday.

The Institute for Public Policy Research said one of the reasons for Britain's comparatively few students staying on after 16 was the division between academic and vocational courses and confusion between the Department of Education and Science and the Department of Employment.

The institute said: "It divides academic pupils from the rest through the different institutions... and, above all, different qualifications which cater for the two groups. Our qualifications system resembles an obstacle course and is designed to weed out the majority of pupils."

A-levels, the institute said, were seen as too narrow, specialised and old-fashioned. The new advanced diploma would be administered by a new Department of Education and Training and would probably be taught in colleges of further education. It would be preceded by a foundation stage for 14 to 17-year-olds that would gradually take over from GCSEs.

The report rejected raising the compulsory school-leaving age to 18 but said it would expect staying-on rates to rise by about 85 per cent when the scheme was in full operation, increasing the number of 16- to 18-year-olds from 380,000 to 830,000 by the end of the decade. The researchers esti-

mated the scheme would cost £100 million in the first year, rising to £500 million by the fifth year. As participation rates rose a capital investment of £1 billion over ten years might be required. "Although the costs are high, we cannot afford not to incur this expenditure," the institute said.

It was also time to question the need for a school-leaving examination at 16, the report said. It recommended that such an examination be replaced by an assessment at 16 to help students to decide on the courses they would wish to follow.

The institute accepted that by the age of 16 many pupils were "school-weary" and further education and training should take place in tertiary colleges although sixth forms would remain in some schools for some years. The advanced diploma would cover three broad areas, social and human sciences, natural sciences and technology and arts, languages and literature.

Political education in schools should not be propaganda but allow children to learn how to make judgments about public affairs. Alan Howarth, junior education minister, said yesterday.

Mr Howarth told the 21st anniversary meeting of the Politics Association at Westminster: "I see political education in schools rather as a preparatory activity offering information and criteria against which to judge it, helping young people learn how to come to a point of view and defend it cogently."

When England met West Germany in the World Cup last night, both teams were using the pasta diet that has been long-distance runners over the past 20 years.

The West Germans switched to the high-carbohydrate menu after the quarter-final when they faded in the second half. Dr Heinz Liesen, the team doctor, criticised the squad's food. He blamed Fritz Westermann, the cook, for preparing too much meat and causing a carbohydrate deficiency.

The England players have adopted a high-carbohydrate diet since the squad received a lecture from Professor Clyde Williams of Loughborough University before they left for the World Cup tournament.

Pre-match steaks were once a traditional diet for footballers. Mistakenly, many sportsmen used to believe that because muscles are developed with protein, they should eat meat before a match. What is needed, however, is short-term fuel. Steaks are also less digestible than pasta.

The high carbohydrate diet was invented in the 1960s in Sweden for cross-country skiers and adopted by generations of marathon runners.

Ron Hill, the 1969 European champion, used a diet that involved three days of high protein and virtually no carbohydrate to deplete the glycogen reserve. For the last three days before a race the diet was switched to no protein and plenty of carbohydrate. That was believed to give a greater reserve of glycogen than an orthodox diet.

Many competitive sportsmen however have found the diet uncomfortable and have

mobile telephones. "We have certain standards to maintain at Henley and this is not something we will tolerate," George Lawson, a regatta spokesman, said as the annual event got under way. "If we don't nip this sort of thing in the bud now, we will

have 150 people constantly chattering away on these phones in the enclosure in five years' time," he said. Mr Lawson said the ruling had been introduced after discussions among committee members, who feared it would lower standards.

"Standards in the stewards' enclosure are purely social in all respects — that means no press, TV or reporters. Therefore, people using the enclosure for business are really out of character with the aims of the enclosure," he said.

Patriotic football fervour surges through pubs, clubs and traffic jams

By RAY CLANCY

MICK Jagger was strutting at Wembley, Frank Sinatra was crooning at the London Arena and Coronation Street fans were waiting for the end of the match when Bobby Robson's team was on the pitch in Turin last night.

Business was brisk in public houses all over Britain as supporters flocked to watch the big match in an attempt to create the World Cup atmosphere outside Italy. Police forces drew up contingency plans to deal with any trouble after the game. In Northamp-

ton, where 400 youths gathered in the city centre and looted shops after England's match with Cameroon last Sunday, the police liaised with publicans and in Essex extra officers were drafted in.

Leicester police asked publicans not to show the match in an attempt to forestall violence. The Licensed Victuallers Association said it was up to individual landlords to decide whether or not to show the match.

Thousands of other supporters took crates of beer home

The taste of Italy pushes players to peak performance

From JOHN GOODBODY IN TURIN

WHEN England met West Germany in the World Cup last night, both teams were using the pasta diet that has been long-distance runners over the past 20 years.

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The object is to pump the maximum amount of glycogen and phosphagens into the energy stores in the muscles. Those compounds are the fuels that break down most readily to release energy during a game.

and the crew were kept up-to-date with the score," a Wembley spokesman said.

The rush hour began early as office workers left plenty of time to get home for the 7pm kick off. People on flexi-time left as early as they could, then the mad dash began at 5.30pm. Delays were made worse by the rainy weather.

Rolls Royce workers in Derby were allowed to alter their shifts for the big match. "It was a great idea and certainly prevented widespread absenteeism," a union spokesman said.

Granada Television, which produces the soap opera Coronation Street, said there were complaints about the programme being shown after the match last night. The latest figures for the ITV network show the World Cup has been attracting 11.5 million viewers and Coronation Street 16.5 million.

At 6.30pm sport was featured on all four television channels — the World Cup on BBC1 and ITV. Wimbledon on BBC 2 and the Tour de France on Channel Four.

An Italian man lost the chance of winning almost £250,000 when his team was knocked out of the World Cup by Argentina but still collected more than £25,000 from his £200 stake placed last November with William Hill, the bookmakers.

Rain fails to put tennis back

By MARK SOASTER

IN SPITE of rain which caused a four-hour delay at Wimbledon yesterday, officials said the schedule would not be disrupted.

Alan Mills, the tournament referee, said that as far as the championship events were concerned, "we are only six matches behind the perfect schedule".

By last Thursday, a record 258 matches had been completed, the most since records began. Mr Mills said: "This time last year we were at least 30 matches behind schedule.

If we had to have rain we would prefer it was in the middle of the tournament."

The demands of the new Safety at Sports Grounds Act and the World Cup in Italy have meant that attendances at this year's championships are down by at least 40,000.

An official said: "Of course we are disappointed by this — particularly since on several days the gates have not closed at all, so we had tickets to sell but no queue to sell them to.

As in previous years, however, everyone who has queued has gone in, even though on the first four days the gates have closed at the 28,000 capacity.

"The drop in attendance will affect the surplus we pass on to British tennis, but it is impossible to estimate the lost ticket revenue at this stage."

Match reports, page 41, 42

Labour move on disabled

UNIVERSITIES and polytechnics would be required to develop programmes of provision for disabled students under Labour party proposals published yesterday (Philip Webster writes). Part of the grant made by the universities and polytechnics funding council would be specially allocated to institutions providing for the disabled, and capital grants would be made to adapt buildings and equipment.

The plans were contained in a consultation paper published with a Labour survey showing, according to Andrew Smith, the party's higher education spokesman, that provision for students with disabilities is variable, incomplete and in need of substantial improvement.

Of the 476,000 students responding, only 1,450 had disabilities. Some 83 per cent of institutions said they did not have resources to provide adequately for students with disabilities.

Labour's proposals contain a charter of rights for students with disabilities. Its approach would be based on a partnership between the education department, the funding council and the institutions in consultation with students.

Wombles composer aids music syllabus

THE Wombles of Wimbledon Common, tubby characters on children's television programmes, are coming to the aid of school music teachers (David Tytler writes).

Uncle Bulgaria from the Wombles and Hazel, leader of the group of hard-pressed rabbits living on Watership Down, are being called in by John MacGregor, the education secretary. Yesterday he set up his music working party to decide what should be taught in the National Curriculum. All children will be offered the chance of learning an instrument from the recorder to the cathedral organ.

Members of the music party include Sir John

Batt: rabbit inspiration for school music classes



Maundell, principal of the Royal Northern College of Music, and Mike Batt, popular musician and entrepreneur. He wrote the signature tunes for the television series *The Wombles* and *Bright Eyes* for the film of Richard Adams's *Watership Down*, the epic story of a group of rabbits who were forced to find a new warren because of building developments.

Salford College of Technology, Greater Manchester, launched a BA (Hons) course in pop music yesterday (Ronald Faux writes). The course was inaugurated with the support of George Martin, who produced many Beatles' numbers, and a goodwill message from Paul McCartney.

The college claims it to be the first of its kind in the world to give such serious concentration and an honours degree to the art and technology of composing, performing and producing popular music.

The first 30 students, aged between 18 and 30, have been chosen and begin their studies in September. More than 150 applied.

Mr Martin said: "A lot of people look askance at popular music but it is a huge industry which should be improved all the time."

Professor pronounces the end of British rural life

By JOHN YOUNG

THE "two nations" divide between rich and poor had become characteristic of life in most villages in Britain, a conference in London on the future of the countryside was told yesterday.

Professor Howard Newby, chairman of the Economic and Social Research Council, spoke of a regressive social polarisation between the affluent middle-class newcomers and the relatively poor indigenous inhabitants.

Most conventional definitions of the word rural were now obsolete, he said. There had been a flow of population back even to the most remote areas and manufacturing industry had begun to move from urban

areas into the countryside. In most areas agriculture had only residual significance and consequently future changes in farming could be considered of only marginal importance to the local economy.

"Rural Britain, which was once agricultural Britain, is now urban middle-class Britain," Professor Newby told the conference, organised by the Royal Society of Arts.

The benefits of economic growth, however, had not been spread evenly among the rural population and many pockets of deprivation remained. The needs of the rural poor, the elderly and the disabled were increasingly ignored.

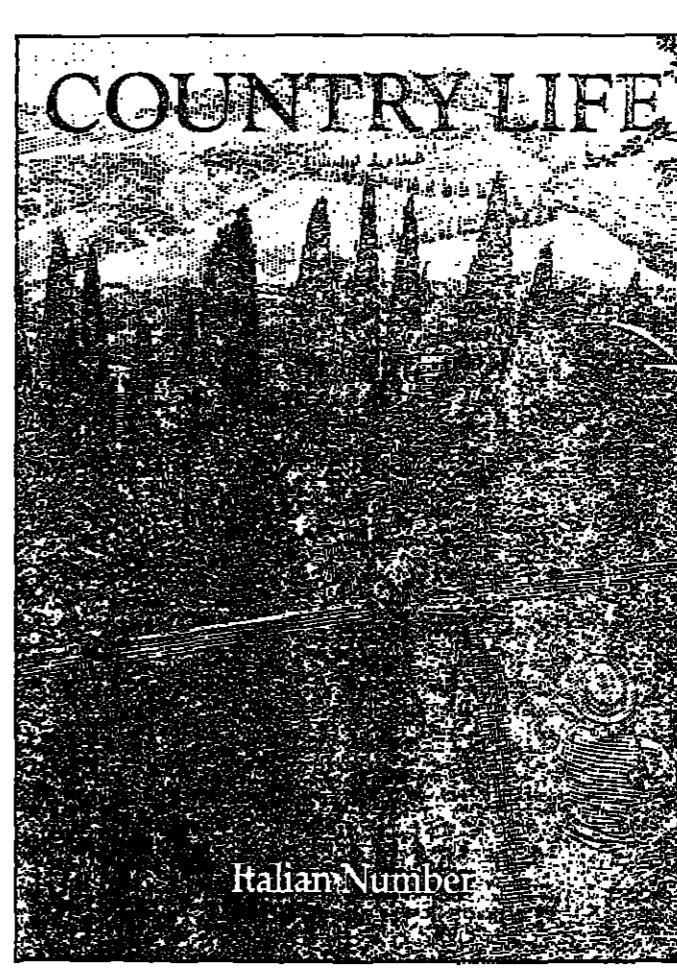
Professor Newby said that rural economic growth depended upon an increase in the manufacturing and service sectors. That was being frustrated by the "Nimby" (not in my backyard) attitude adopted by those with their own interests to pursue and who considered that more jobs and more houses detracted from, rather

than enhanced, the attractions of village life. So far it had been the most privileged members of the middle classes who had benefited most from the planning system. Fewer development controls would benefit the poorer sections of the population.

The idyllic image which people still retained of the countryside prevented them from seeing the reality, he suggested. It was seen as under constant threat from development and from a permanent conflict between agriculture and wildlife. Such was the strength of the conservation debate that it dominated any discussion, and meant that other more basic issues were obscured.



Italian Number



Italian Number

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COUNTRY LIFE
EVERY THURSDAY

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It's rather different from the old YTS. Essentially, it's a name for a training package that comprises a range of courses so diverse, they can be practically tailor-made for both employer and employee alike.

It offers young people, either in or out of work, a real leg-up to their chosen career. It opens up doors that would otherwise be closed. It allows them to train for qualifications that'll give them

every chance of getting a better job, or forging ahead in the career they've already chosen.

There are courses for any arm of any industry you can think of, including yours, and for any size of business from the mini to the mega.

This means you can groom your youngsters for the specific areas of your company that will be of most benefit to both.

How does it work?

Once you've contacted us, a training specialist will call your company and spend some time getting a feel for the way you work.

In consultation with one of your Directors or your Personnel Manager, he'll put together a package for the individuals who are to go on the course.

Needless to say, the programmes are subject to your nod and are absolutely flexible.

They last as long as they need to. And training can take the form of full-time, block release, day release or sandwich courses.

Once completed, your employees

are in possession not of a useless bit of paper, but fully recognised qualifications. Recognised by employers and awarded by such eminent bodies as City & Guilds, Royal Society of Arts, Pitmans, BTEC and SCOTVEC. All with a useful contribution from the Government.

For the time being, (and as long as you're holding this newspaper), your future is in your hands. Sure, the time when those youngsters will be poised for management may seem a long way off. (But does your youth seem a long way off to you now?). And sure, they're not all going to make it to management level.

But this much is true. Your company is the people that work in it. By offering New Youth Training, you're not only increasing the calibre of your workforce.

You're also increasing the overall standard of your output and making your company a much more attractive place to be. Both to present and future employees.

There's another factor: In two years time, there'll be 27% fewer 16-19 year olds coming on to the job market than in 1987.

A few months ago, the CBI published a report on skills shortages.

The results were startling: 45% of employers have admitted that skill shortages have affected production.

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The benefits of New Youth Training are as real and as great as you and your Directors want them to be.

Please have your Personnel Manager contact your Training Agency area office or Training and Enterprise Council.

Alternatively you can call us free on: 0800 44 42 42.

Or you can write. The address is: New Youth Training, Department TI 001, Freepost CV1037, Birmingham Road, Stratford Upon Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 0BR.

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Book back

Costly clanger

Solstice costs

Bypass opens

British Rail annual report

Safety costs after Clapham to be substantial

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE full cost of implementing all 71 recommendations for improved railway safety identified by the Hidden report into the triple rail crash at Clapham in December 1988, in which 35 people died, has not yet been calculated, British Rail confirmed yesterday.

Although work has begun on implementing all but two of the recommendations, it was too early to quantify the final cost of the safety programme, which would be "substantial", Sir Robert Reid, the BR chairman, said.

Unofficial estimates have suggested the final cost of the recommendations could be between £500 million and £1 billion. Opposition MPs have repeatedly called on Cecil Parkinson, the transport secretary, to say whether they will be paid for by increased fares. Mr Parkinson has not responded. Sir Robert said he had every confidence that Mr Parkinson would honour his commitment to ensure "money is no obstacle" to full implementation, through direct grant, increased subsidy, or relaxed financial targets.

BR earlier announced that an extra £250 million was to be included in the forthcoming 1990 corporate plan for safety measures, while Sir Robert said the cost of the programme would be identified separately in BR's future financial statements. BR recently appointed a safety director and a fire safety advisor to provide greater impetus to safety improvements and a higher awareness of safety hazards, the report said.

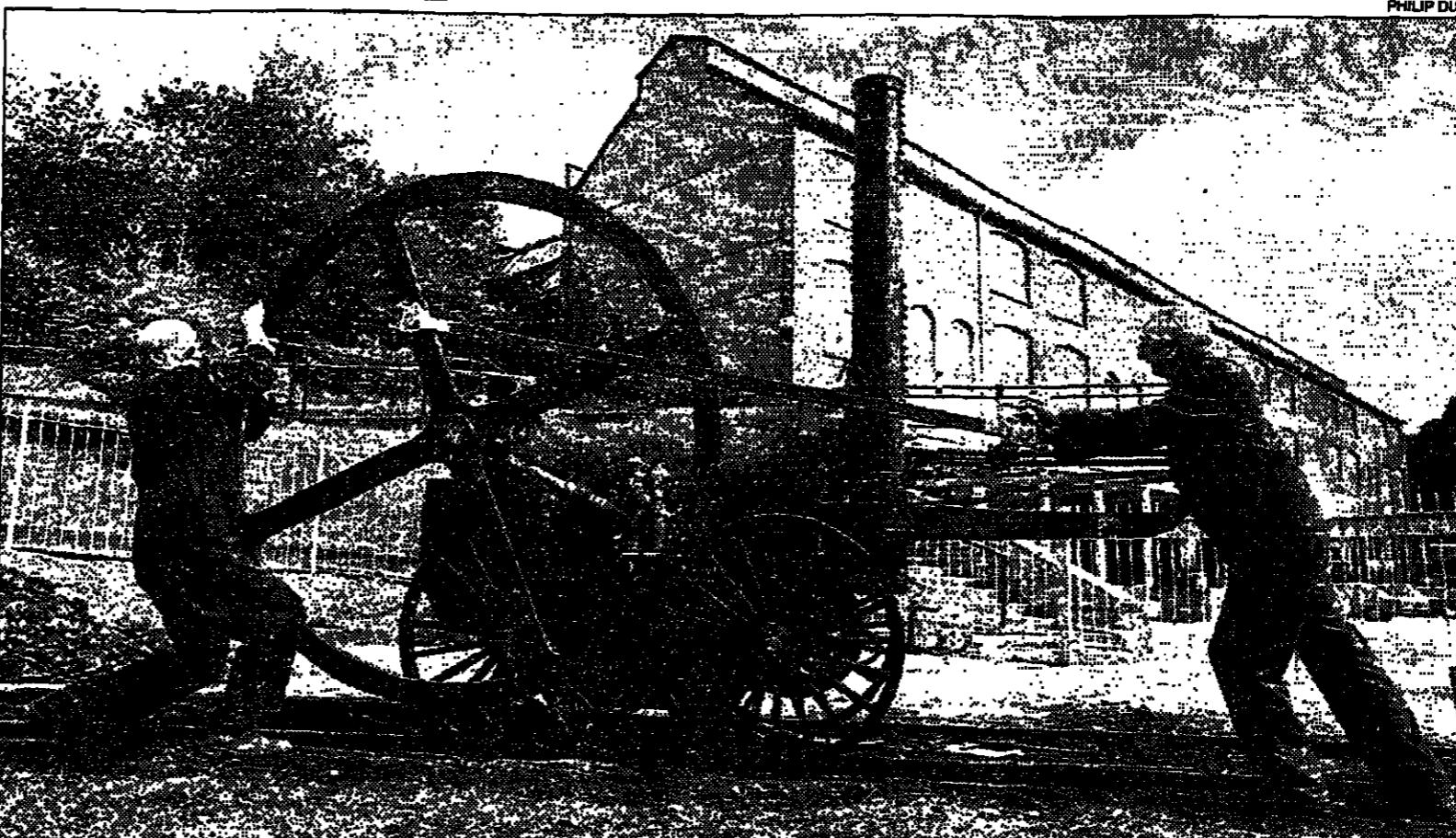
Work on the two remaining

recommendations, calling for the installation of "black box" data recorders on trains similar to those on aircraft, and discussions with the Railway Inspectorate after research into the structural integrity of rolling stock, will begin as soon as possible, Sir Robert said.

The task of fitting cab radios to all main-line locomotives is well under way and BR expects to complete the programme for all traction units within five years. Contracts have been awarded to develop and supply two pilot automatic train protection (ATP) systems, a technology preventing locomotives passing red lights or breaking speed limits. These will be tested on the main line between Paddington and Bristol and on the suburban line between Marylebone and Aylesbury.

The Hidden report gave BR five years to develop and install the ATP technology on all trains throughout the network. This will be the single most expensive of all the recommendations. It also demanded that BR increase spending on research and development into improving the "structural integrity" of rolling stock, particularly on the sides of carriages, which are less collision resistant than the ends. Progress must be discussed with the Railway Inspectorate. BR is at present testing an experimental blackbox data recorder.

Preliminary changes in BR's signalling and telecommunications division, designed to eradicate bad working practices, lack of



Engineers getting to grips with a working replica of the first railway locomotive in the world for service at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Shropshire. The engine, designed by the Cornish engineer Richard Trevithick, was built at Coalbrookdale, Shropshire, between 1802 and 1803, probably predating a Trevithick engine built in south Wales which successfully pulled ten tons over ten miles.

supervision, and excessive overtime, highlighted by the Hidden report, were implemented last year. Plans are being discussed with the National Union of Railmen to restructure the jobs and gradings of more than 50,000 staff in an effort to further reduce dependence on overtime.

The report said appalling

working practices and a lack of satisfactory managerial supervision had led to the Clapham disaster, the direct causes of which were wiring errors made by Brian Hemingway, the senior technician on the Waterloo re-signalling scheme, and the failure of Derek Bumstead, the supervisor responsible for monitor-

ing Mr Hemingway's work, to carry out his obligations.

The annual report said no passenger was killed in a train accident in 1989-90, a year in which safety consciousness had been raised because of the three major accidents the previous year.

The number of staff killed

however increased from 14 to 15. The derailment of the Oxford-Paddington service at West Ealing, London, in August last year after vandals placed a length of rail on the line forced BR to accelerate "operation clean sweep" in an effort to clear the lineside of all but essential engineering material, the report said. BR has also been implementing

the 113 recommendations contained in the Fennell Report into the fire at King's Cross in November 1987, in which 31 people died.

Most of the recommendations concern management and fire safety practices. Fire safety in new, refurbished and existing trains is being examined, and to date 94 of the 113 Fennell recommendations have been implemented," the report said.

Sir Robert said safety had been built into railway operations over the years, establishing rail as a safe way to travel.

"That is why the Clapham accident came as such a shock. The positive side is the impetus it has given to a comprehensive review of all our safety procedures and training."

Responding fully to the recommendations was "one of the challenges we have willingly accepted", he said.

Water meters to cost up to £200 per home

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

WATER meters, which are expected to be installed in most homes by 2000, will cost householders up to £200 a property, a charge the water companies may try to insist be pre-paid.

This was disclosed yesterday after publication of an interim report by the water industry on meter trials in 64,000 homes in several parts of the country. The Office of Water Services (Ofwat), the independent consumer watchdog body set up last year by the government after privatisation, said it would keep a close watch on the plans.

Ofwat will publish a consultative document in September to stimulate a public debate on methods of charging for water. It will be demanding consumer safeguards. A new charging method is needed by the turn of the century because the present system, based on the old household rateable value of buildings, has been replaced by the community charge.

Ofwat is concerned about possible pre-payment of meter installation and the access consumers will be given to their meters so that they know how much water they are using.

Water companies are expected to favour external meters that would be buried in enlarged garden stop-cock sites and thus not easily accessible to householders. The advantage is that householders do not need to be at home when the meter is read.

Trials indicate that water consumption falls by 10 per cent when consumers observe how much they are using.

That should mean water companies will be able to save on capital expenditure for reservoirs and pumping stations.

Matthew Toumlin, Ofwat's spokesman, said: "We want easy access to meters for the consumer so that he or she can see how much water is being consumed. We prefer for meters to be installed in the house rather than at the bottom of the garden."

"We do not feel it is appropriate for consumers to be charged the full cost upfront for a meter prior to use."

"We shall be looking at the question of savings in water consumption as a result of metering. It would not be fair to pass on the cost of installation if metering means the companies make big capital savings because demand is down. That would mean the companies would effectively be paid twice."

Metering would be possible in 95 per cent of households, the report concludes. It would cost £165 to install an internal meter and £200 for an external one. Welsh Water, one of the 10 privatised water companies in England and Wales, has already scrapped metering as an option.

Bills in metering trials have been the same or lower for two thirds of customers but one in five households had to pay 20 per cent more than its previous bill.

David Gadsbury, chairman of the group co-ordinating the trials, said metering was likely to be introduced in a patchwork way.

Southern Water said the cost of meter installation has to be passed on to householders because the water companies were dependent on consumers as their sole source of revenue.

Three teams study tunnel site deaths

By DAVID YOUNG

SAFETY at the Channel tunnel construction site, which is accepted responsibility for the claims. In April last year it paid out £250,000 damages to Linda Townsley, the widow of Colin Townsley — a record for a fireman killed on duty.

Another claim against London Underground is being investigated by Greg Pigott, a former fireman, of Rosemont Road, Hampstead, northwest London, was adjourned for further evidence to be gathered.

Mr Pigott, aged 26, says he suffers from a post-traumatic stress disorder after watching the dead and injured being brought from the ticket hall after the disaster in November 1987. He alleges it led to his giving up his job.

He worked for a time as a

teacher but has given that up. He alleges a changed personality and lack of concentration. A month after the fire he suffered a knee injury in a motorcycle accident and the court heard it might have been that injury that caused him to give up work.

Andrew Dismore, who represented both men and many other claimants resulting from the disaster, said Mr Barrett's case was unique because he was the only train driver to make a claim. Of the 100 claims arising from the fire, about two thirds have been settled. There are many dozens still waiting to be heard, including those from several fire fighters and members of the public.

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The commitment to safety of all parties involved in this project is commendable. Responsibility for health and safety clearly rests with the contractor, but the safety representatives and each individual employee also have a key role to play."

The minister met union representatives on the site. He said reports that speed was being given priority over safety were totally unfounded. The unions were proud to be involved in the project, he said, and they would be the first to complain if that were true. Mr Nicholls said the unions realised that safety

came first and they were working to make sure their members were protected.

Telecom 'must pay up for partially faulty lines'

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

CUSTOMERS whose telephone lines suffer intermittent or partial faults should have the right to compensation from British Telecom, according to a *Which?* report, published today by the Consumers' Association.

Under present rules compensation is "strictly speaking payable only for a continuous fault", the report says. Customers should also be compensated if the installation date offered by the telephone company is inordinately long.

The association believes the telephone companies' watchdog body, the Office of Telecommunications (Oftel), should lay down a maximum waiting period after which refunds can be claimed.

The recommendations form part of a second study into

how telephone services have improved or deteriorated since Telecom's privatisation in 1984 and the creation of a competitor, Mercury Communications.

Many of Telecom's services have improved since the last survey in 1987, but there is still room for improvement, says the report, which questioned more than 1,500 private telephone subscribers.

Reliability has failed to improve, with two fifths of subscribers claiming their telephone had been out of order at least once in the past 18 months and half of those suffering twice during the period.

Nearly a third of the faults involved telephones not accepting incoming calls and a quarter involved subscribers



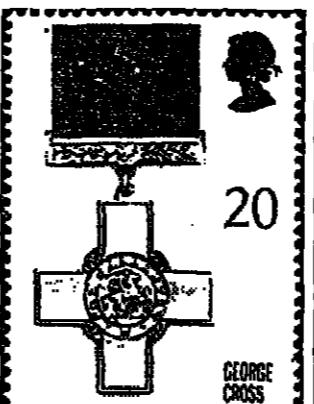
Stamps to mark 1940 heroics

FIVE stamps depicting top military and civil medals to mark the dark days of 1940 will go on sale on September 11.

Sir Bryan Nicholson, Post Office chairman, said yesterday: "The stamps will be of special significance, for 50 years ago the heroic evacuation of Dunkirk, the Battle of Britain and the blitz on many British towns and cities took place, and the George Cross was introduced."

Two stamps show Britain's highest decorations, the Victoria Cross (above) and (below) the George Cross, for civilians. The others depict the top gallantry awards of the three services.

They have been designed by John Gibbs and illustrated by John Harwood the artist.



home with news of their elopement and passengers to do a spot of shopping from the air with a credit card. The service will also carry fax facilities, allowing company executives in London to dismiss staff flying over France or middle managers landing in The Netherlands.

It is hoped that the system will eventually allow ground crews and, perhaps, engine-makers, to monitor an aircraft's functions from the airport or factory just by picking up the phone.

Mr William Mitchell, of GEC Sensors in Basildon, where in-flight equipment is being designed, said it was estimated that 50 base stations would be needed to give full Western

more can be done to improve the service the social security department offers claimants, in spite of government efforts to raise standards, according to the Consumers' Association.

A survey of 2,400 people carried out for the association's magazine *Which?* highlighted poor facilities, difficulties in dealing with unusual cases and discrepancies in the way in which claims were processed.

The government began upgrading the department's service two years ago. It started to introduce computers, set performance targets, refurbished claims offices and decentralised claims processing. The benefits system was simplified and a Social Fund was introduced to provide discretionary loans for items such as furniture or to pay for home repairs.

The association said it found that one in three people questioned thought the service was poor. Almost two out of three who had contacted the department described the service as, at best, fair.

One claimant in 17 had difficulties making a claim, while the figure rose for certain types of non-contributory benefit such as income support.

Service at DSS 'could improve'

Swimming pool quality criticised

SAFETY standards and water quality at swimming pools have been criticised in a Consumers' Association report published yesterday. In tests at 19 swimming pools in the West Midlands inspectors from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents found four pools with poor safety. One was found to be "potentially dangerous".

In separate tests the Institution of Environmental Health Officers took 27,000 water samples nationwide in 1986/7. They found nearly 10 per cent of public pools and more than 19 per cent of private pools had unsatisfactory levels of bacteria content. The report in *Which?* said about 30 people drowned in swimming pools each year.

The survey said there were worrying examples of poor supervision and pool design, which were a cause of concern. Inadequate supervision, murky water and misleading depth markings made the pool at the St John's Swallow Hotel, Solihull, potentially dangerous, inspectors said. The hotel pool, another private facility and two Birmingham council pools were reported to Health and Safety Executive and local environmental health officers.

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Cars, trains and boats have, over recent years, fallen prey to the march of the mobile phone and there are

plans in the United States to install handsets on hiking trails in nature parks and the countryside.

Mr David Stone, general manager of British Telecom International's aeronautical and maritime division, described phones on planes as "the last great untapped telecommunications market". To launch the test service, base stations are initially to be installed in London, Paris and in Sweden.

British Airways are commercially launching Skyphone, a satellite phone service for transatlantic routes, this summer and Mr Mitchell said that by next year a combined land and satellite service would probably be available to the world's airlines.

European coverage. One hundred airports are expected to fit similar units to provide full "gate to gate" coverage. The service will not work over vast oceans but Mr Mitchell dashed any shred of hope for those hoping to avoid the assault of the ubiquitous phone.

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Technology, page 31-34

Costly clanger

An attempt to set a world record by ringing 25,000 changes on the church bells at St Budoc, in Cornwall, failed when a mistake was made after 5,000 changes.

Solstice costs

Wiltshire police have estimated the cost of their operation for the summer solstice at Stonehenge will be less than £300,000, a 40 per cent reduction on last year's bill.

Bypass opens

A bypass around Shefford and the villages of Clifton and Henlow, Bedfordshire, opened yesterday, 54 years after residents first asked for it.

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PEUGEOT. THE LION GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH.

كما من البحار

Middle ranks ready to move up or out

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet colleagues have been assured that the reshuffle she is contemplating this month will not involve them. After the unexpected departures of Nigel Lawson, Norman Fowler and Peter Walker, she is looking for a period of stability at the top. The changes now in preparation therefore amount to a summer clear-out in the middle and lower ranks of the administration and a first step on to the escalator for selected new boys.

Deciding who should be invited to spend more time with his family will not be easy. Mrs Thatcher's normal practice is to find a few ministers of state who are past the first flush of youth or who have had a good run in government and who seem unlikely to step up to Cabinet rank. Of the present crop of ministers of state, many are clearly high flyers on their way to the Cabinet. That category would include William Waldegrave (Foreign Office), David Mellor (Home Office), John Patten (Home Office), Michael Portillo (environment), Francis Maude (Foreign Office) and Virginia Bottomley (health). They may be moved sideways to broaden their experience, but they will not be dropped. Other ministers of state, such as Michael Spicer (housing) and Roger Freeman (transport) have been moved into their positions only this year and are unlikely to be shifted.

That leaves nine middle-rankers theoretically in the danger zone: Richard Luce, 53 (arts and civil service), Alan Clark, 62 (defence procurement), Archie Hamilton, 48 (armed forces), Angela Rumbold, 57 (education), John Cope, 53 (Northern Ireland), Peter Morrison, 46 (energy), Lynda Chalker, 48 (overseas development), Sir Wyn Roberts, 59 (Wales) and Nicholas Scott, 56 (social security). But there the troubles begin for Mrs Thatcher. Mr Luce and Mrs Chalker are reckoned



Forman: promotion hope

unlucky. Mrs Rumbold, Mr Scott and Mr Cope look the most likely victims.

Candidates for office among the ministerial PPSs include Alistair Burt, Kenneth Baker's PPS, Andrew Mackay (Tom King), Tim Yeo (Douglas Hurd) and John Maples (Norman Lamont).

Two Foreign office PPSs also come into the reckoning. David Davis (Francis Maude) and Ian Taylor (William Waldegrave) have both impressed, and Andrew Mitchell (John Wakeham) has caught some influential eyes. But by general consent the man most deserving of promotion is Nigel Forman, who used to serve Nigel Lawson. It would be a tragedy, say colleagues, if Mr Forman were to go on suffering because of that past association.

Luce defends government record on heritage

THE ARTS

THE government has taken the lead in restoring the fabric of museums, galleries and other historic buildings, Richard Luce, the arts minister, told MPs yesterday.

Responding to the plan put forward at the weekend by Peter Palumbo, chairman of the Arts Council, for a £1 billion fund for refurbishing the nation's heritage, he said that the government's record was hardly one of neglect.

Mr Luce, opening a full day's debate on the arts and heritage, said he recognised that constant work was required to maintain what we in most cases magnificent buildings housing the national collections.

"One of my major ambitions

is to bring these museum and gallery buildings into tip-top condition by the end of the decade, and I made my intentions clear in a speech in York in September. "I was particularly delighted to be able to launch the museums and galleries improvement fund in March this year."

Referring to changes in support for the arts announced this year, he said that the government remained committed to a strong and effective Arts Council.

The government had spent an unprecedented amount of taxpayers' money on the arts, an increase of some 48 per cent in real terms since 1979. The Arts Council grant was worth three times what it was 20 years ago.

There had been the "rehang"

at the Tate and the Clore Galleries. They looked forward to the

A symbol of its commitment was the building of the British Library at St Pancras in north London, the largest publicly funded cultural construction to be built in this country this century and since the great museums and galleries of the nineteenth century. The library would be one of the world's greatest treasure houses of the humanities and sciences. For the first time, Britain was providing, at a cost of £450 million, a specific purpose-built home for the library.

The government had a duty to encourage in which all arts could flourish and develop freely with a combination of public and private sector support.

"We have in Britain one of the most vibrant and diverse arts scenes in the world, something which the millions of tourists who visit our shores fully recognise.

"London remains pre-eminent in theatre with more plays and shows being performed each evening than in any other city in the world. Much of what is available survives without public subsidy. Audiences in the West End last year reached a record 11 million and box office income exceeded £150 million, giving a major boost to the economy."

London led the way as one of the great culture capitals of the world. Last month, they had seen the opening of the new galleries of the Courtauld Institute in the beautiful neoclassical setting of Somers House, achieved almost entirely with private sector funds.

There had been the "rehang" at the Tate and the Clore Galleries. They looked forward to the



Richard Luce: government remains committed to a strong and effective Arts Council

extension of the National Gallery with the Sainsbury wing next spring. The Royal Academy had big plans for an extension of space.

The artistic flowering was not confined to London. The Eighties had seen an economic renaissance in many great towns and cities "and the arts have played a leading role in this."

"Not only do they bring back life and vitality to the inner city, but they also create a tangible illustration of civic pride." These features had been prominently displayed in Glasgow.

A century ago, that city was a byword for civic pride and private patronage. "Now we see another urban renaissance

Speaker accepts Nellist apology

David Nellist (Croydon South East, Lab) admitted to the Commons yesterday that he had berated Angela Rumbold, an education minister, when he crossed the floor at the end of the debate on Tuesday. Jacques Arnold (Gravesend, Con) said that it had been a case of physical intimidation.

Mr Nellist said: "It has been put to me that it was intimidating and harassing. I said 'I'm sorry if it was said that it was physical. I wish to make clear that it was not intended in that way. It has been put to me that I ought to apologise and I accept that. I do not apologise for the speech I made. The education team should resign in disgrace."

The Speaker (Bernard Weatherill) said: "If I judge rightly what he said, Mr Nellist has apologised to the House and I accept that. The deputy speaker in the chair (Betty Boothroyd) would also appreciate a note from him."

Pharmacists' deal imposed

Kenneth Clarke, health secretary, has imposed a pay settlement on pharmacists because, he says, the negotiating committee has been unable to agree what he regards as a fair and reasonable offer.

In a written reply, Mr Clarke said that negotiations began last December and the health department had made big concessions. The pharmaceutical services negotiating committee had declared a state of dispute. The settlement would give community pharmacists an increase in professional fees of 7.5 per cent over the 1989-90 levels.

ERM dispute is denied

There was no dispute between the prime minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, or any other member of the cabinet, over the United Kingdom's joining the exchange rate mechanism when conditions were right, Lord Heath, government spokesman, said during question time in the Lords.

"There is one view and that is the government view."

Many injuries not reported

It is estimated that the degree of non-reporting of injuries to employees in all sectors is about half and there are indications that under-reporting in the building industry may be much higher. Patrick Nicholls, employment junior minister, said in a Commons written

turning to the fabric of museums and galleries. Mr Luce said one of his main ambitions was to bring these buildings into tip-top condition by the end of the decade.

This year £57 million was being provided and over the next three years the total government sum provided for building work would be more than £180 million. That was a great deal more taxpayers' money for repairing and improving the fabric.

"In this context Mr Peter Palumbo, chairman of the Arts Council, put some interesting ideas to the government."

"The Arts Council are developing some ideas on the arts refurbishment and the Theatre Trust are at present doing an estimate of the refurbishment required to theatres. It is for each department to deal with the matter as they think best. I am grateful to Mr Palumbo for his strong and imaginative interest in this matter."

Cuts 'forced on Scottish NHS'

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

HEALTH boards in Scotland have been forced to make cuts in facilities for patients because of government underfunding of pay awards, the Labour party said yesterday.

The party produced figures showing that pay awards for all areas of Scotland excluding greater Glasgow had been underfunded by £151 million since 1983. As 80 per cent of all health service spending goes on pay, health boards must find any underfunding in wage agreements from the 20 per cent of remaining cash used for treatment and equipment.

Hector MacKenzie, general secretary of the Confederation of Health Service Employees, said that the government might try to end the difficulties of the health service north of the border by introducing the market economy and regional pay awards.

Later, during Scottish questions in the Commons, Malcolm Rifkind, Scottish secretary, defended the government's position. He said the government had made available an extra £158 million last year to counter the effects of pay and price increases.

Scholey under attack

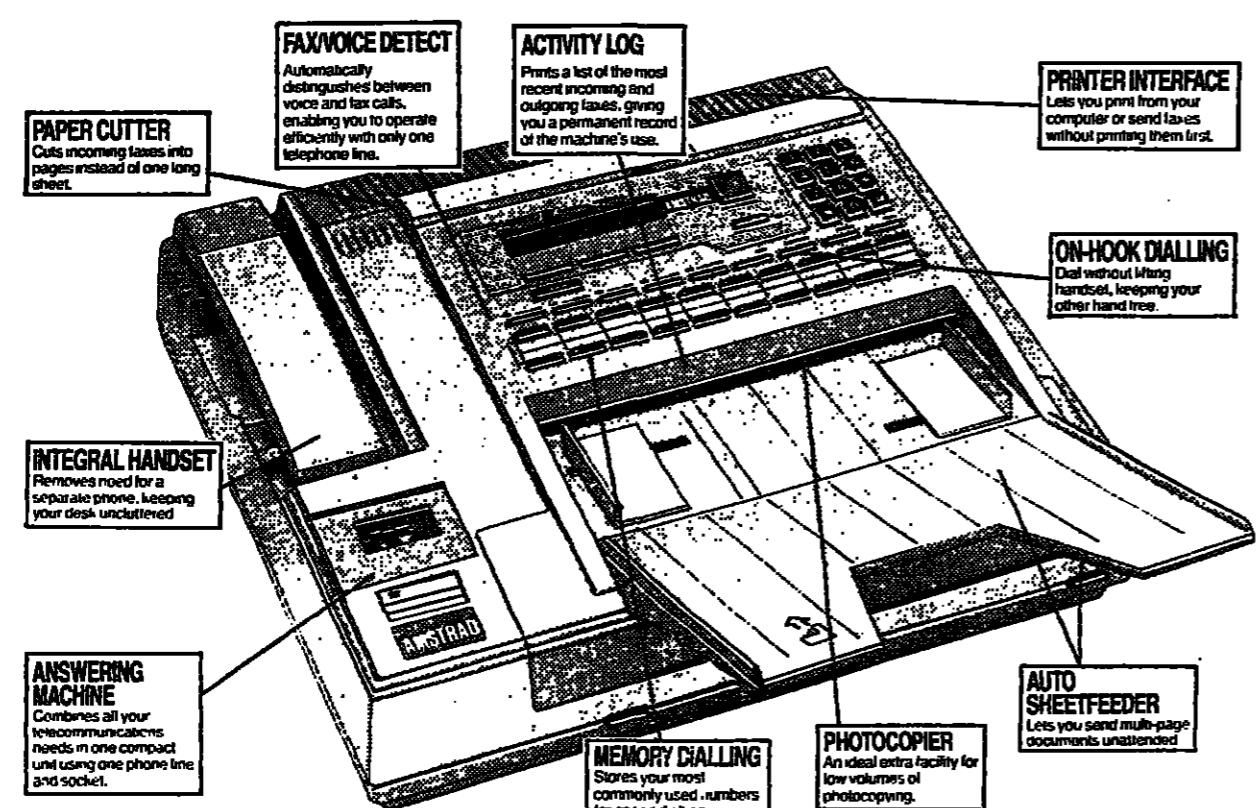
SIR Robert Scholey, British Steel chairman, was criticised in the Commons for refusing to meet the Ravenscraig workforce, where the hot strip mill is to close with the loss of 750 jobs.

During question time, Malcolm Rifkind, the Scottish secretary, described Sir Robert's unwillingness to meet the workforce as unfortunate. He had urged Sir Robert "to reconsider his stance. "It would be of mutual benefit not only for them to hear his point of view but for him to hear what they have to say." Mr Rifkind said he had asked the Scottish Development Agency (SDA) to carry out an analysis of the prospects for the steel industry in Scotland.

Dr John Reid (Motherwell North, Lab) said that a letter from Sir Robert (in response to Mr Rifkind's request to justify the decision to close the hot strip mill) was an insult and the "biggest cover-up since Watergate".

Sir Hector Monro (Dumfries, C) said that the letter was quite unacceptable. "We expect much better from the chairman of British Steel."

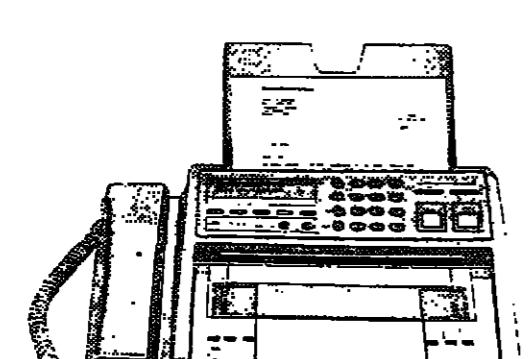
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Speaker accepts Nellist apology

THE TIMES THURSDAY JULY 5 1990

OVERSEAS NEWS 9

Sri Lankans brace for 'fight to the finish' as deaths soar

From JAMES PRINGLE
IN TRINCOMALEE

WHEN Tamil separatist guerrillas launched sudden attacks on the Sri Lankan army and police early last month the Sri Lankan government found itself on unaccustomed territory — the moral high ground.

Long the subject of human rights complaints from Western governments and agencies for its ruthless suppression of ethnic and political unrest, the Colombo government was clearly seen this time to have been treacherously deceived.

There had been a truce with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for more than a year while negotiations went ahead towards providing Sri Lanka's Tamil minority with greater autonomy. Most diplomats in Colombo felt that the government of President Premadasa was making generous concessions in an effort to reach a peaceful solution to Sri Lanka's seven-year-old civil war.

"The Tigers could have got everything

they wanted at the negotiating table," a Western diplomat in Colombo said in puzzlement after the attacks.

Now over 100 Tamil Tigers have been killed this week as fighting continues between the Tamil rebels and Sri Lanka's security forces in the island's Northern and Eastern provinces.

Fighting continues around the Jaffna fort in the northern province, where 200 security men have been besieged for three weeks.

Much needed food, ammunition and medical supplies were delivered when a helicopter landed for a few minutes this week. Earlier attempts to get medical aid and food to them have been only partially successful as the Tigers virtually surround the fort. Amid heavy gunfire, seven injured security personnel were airlifted from the fort.

A communiqué from the presidential secretariat said that 260 armed services and police personnel have been killed so far in the latest fighting while 640 are missing in action. President Premadasa, it added, intends to visit each soldier and policeman in hospital.

The nature of the Tigers' offensive has appalled most Sri Lankans, including many Tamils, and the foreign community. The Tigers entered police stations after the police had been ordered to lay down their arms. In many cases, the police were driven to forest clearings, made to lie down, then shot. More than 158 bodies have been found so far, and 650 policemen are still missing, presumed dead.

A government spokesman, in calling troops into action, made clear the fight was not against the Tamils, who make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million population, but against the Tigers.

Diplomats here give high marks to the discipline of the armed forces, which have come a long way from the excesses of the past.

However, more than three weeks after the latest round of fighting started the distinctions are beginning to become blurred. The outspoken defence minister, Ranjan Wijeratne, has announced that this is to be "a fight to the finish". There are growing fears that the civilian population, especially the Tamil minor-

ity, will get caught up in it. Already, police both in Trincomalee and in the nearby village of Ingineyagala have taken the law into their own hands. In Ingineyagala, the police remained inside their station while a Sinhalese mob doused Tamil adults and children with petrol and set them ablaze, or beat them to death.

In a move that has increased the collective paranoia of the Tamils in Trincomalee the police have been put in charge of public security. "We have told them to behave themselves and we will keep an eye on them," said Lucky Wijeratne, commander of the Trincomalee military district.

A senior military officer in Colombo said: "Quite frankly we've no choice. We are short of army troops and we need them to fight the Tigers."

There are other disquieting signs of trouble ahead. Hooded informers are pointing the finger in impromptu identification parades at Tiger suspects in Batticaloa, a small port south of here.

The most worrying incident so far apparently occurred on June 22 near the

town of Nilaveli north of Trincomalee. The Tamils recounted how non-combatant men, women and children were told by the army to shelter in the building of a mill, while the troops flushed out Tigers in town.

"We were assured we would be secure," said one woman here. "But when we all gathered in the mill, the army started firing artillery at the building and one shell scored a direct hit, killing 40 people and wounding many more."

What appears to be corroboration of her story came from a hospital, Point Pedro, in the Tiger-controlled Jaffna peninsula. There women, some of them minus limbs, said that they had been in the same mill when it was shelled by the army.

They gave the death toll as 57 and they said they had been evacuated by sea to the Tigers, "because Tamils do not get to go to hospital" in the Trincomalee area. "This is still very definitely a war against the Tigers but the edges are going to become hazy," noted one Western diplomat in Colombo this week. "A lot

of innocent people on both sides might be killed."

Another diplomat said: "Up until now the army has acted with commendable restraint, but it will become more and more difficult to control the army and police as their casualties mount."

So far the government seems high marks for keeping the situation under control in the rest of Sri Lanka. There has been no serious outbreak of communal violence in the south, such as the anti-Tamil pogroms of 1983 in which up to one thousand people died as security forces stood by.

Driving through Sri Lanka's warm tropical night, the traveller sees the bodies of the army dead being delivered to their homes in small villages before dawn. Funerals are conducted with suitable respect, but no fanfare, so as not to fan the fires of ethnic and religious unrest between the Buddhist Sinhalese and the mainly Hindu Tamils.

For that relative peace to continue, everything now hangs on the discipline of the army as it attempts to flush out the Tigers from their booby-trapped lairs.

Pressure mounts on Pretoria to end civil war in Natal

From GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

A WEEK of black industrial action in South Africa is going ahead against the background of increasing murder and intimidation between the African National Congress and its Zulu rivals.

The declared aim is to put pressure on the government to stop what amounts to civil war between followers of Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the chief minister of KwaZulu tribal homeland, and township residents who broadly support the ANC and its affiliates. Chief Buthelezi, however, views it as simply a flexing of ANC muscles intended to isolate his conservative Inkatha movement.

The campaign began on Monday when several landmines exploded on railway lines in the Transvaal. They had been placed in an appar-

ent attempt to force black workers to support the nationwide work "stayaway".

Police also reported other attempts to ensure the success of the week of action. Petrol bombs and stones were thrown at buses and taxis taking people to work from Soweto, and roadblocks were put up in Natal. After reports of drivers and commuters being physically threatened, the security forces provided transport for thousands of black workers in the Pietermaritzburg area of Natal.

The ANC and Cosatu, the trade union federation, dismissed the allegations of intimidation, claiming that three million workers had obeyed the strike call in an unequivocal demonstration of support for their policies.

Chief Buthelezi took a dif-

ferent view. "There has been no victory for the ANC and Cosatu, there has only been political thuggery," he said. "People are dead, others have been maimed, homes have been burned down, wages have been lost. How can they dare claim success when people have died as a direct result of their actions?"

It is generally accepted that black political activists use intimidation. There have, for instance, been reports of black women who ignore boycotts of white-owned shops being forced to eat and drink their purchases, ranging from cooking oil to lavatory cleaners.

The response of Adrian Vlok, the law and order minister, has been to seek legislation to curb intimidation. His spokesman said it was difficult to obtain convictions under existing law, because witnesses were frequently subjected to additional intimidation.

The ANC's South African Youth Congress is outraged by the move. "Any attempt by the government to introduce such a repressive law, or any other law that is designed to entrench the decaying system of white domination, will be greeted by massive revolts and resistance more devastating than the stayaway," a spokesman said.

Alex Borraine, the director of a liberal lobby group committed to ending apartheid, sees ambivalence in ANC attitudes to violence. "So long as they continue to emphasise the need for continuing the armed struggle, it is impossible for them to urge with conviction the end of violence in Natal or anywhere else," he said.

Apart from the protest action over the violence in Natal, which is to culminate in marches on police headquarters in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town at the weekend, much else has been happening in the absence abroad of Nelson Mandela, the ANC deputy president.

Right-wing terrorism and the unending strife in black communities has raised political violence to its highest level. The most recent victim was Max du Preez, the liberal Afrikaans editor whose newspaper offices were damaged by a bomb yesterday. He later received a death threat.

Wit Wolfe ("White Wolves"), an extremist clandestine group, has claimed responsibility for similar attacks on ruling National Party offices, the homes of Johannesburg city councillors and a synagogue, and has vowed to continue the way to Padua."

"It is a little better now," Erminio Chiozzotto, the city's technical director for the environment, said yesterday.

"But on Sunday you could smell the rotting seaweed all the way to Padua."

Algae in the Laguna decomposes, producing the gas hydrogen sulphide, which drifts inland to blend with other smells from the city's silted-up smaller canals.

"We are at the mercy of wind and weather," lamented Signor Chiozzotto. "The worst days, if there is good weather, will be July 15 and July 29, when the tide will be lowest. Of course, if this coincides

Bardot comes to the aid of seals

From GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

TIMELY intervention by Brigitte Bardot has earned a reprieve for 30,000 seals which were about to be clubbed and stabbed to death in South Africa to provide fur coats, dog meat and seal oils for the Far East market.

Mme Bardot, the former actress and a vociferous animal rights campaigner, condemned the impending slaughter in an open letter to President de Klerk, and offered to "buy" the seals for £13,000. The government announced yesterday that the cull had been suspended "in the light of misgivings about the procedure". Gert Koize, the environment minister, said he would assess objections before reaching a final decision.

Unimpressed black commentators have noted that the export of bull seal genitalia to improve the sex lives of orientals has outraged whites more than the shooting of demonstrators in black townships. A letter to a Johannesburg newspaper yesterday said: "With reference to the murdering of seals, I am stunned that apatheticists are to be sent to the East where there are already too many Chinese."

Wildlife protection groups have been inundated by concerned citizens offering to "buy" the seals, angry protests have been staged outside government offices, and activists have been preparing to take to the sea in rubber dinghies to confront the hunters and to paint the seals' skins green. The Seal Action Group said yesterday it would go ahead with planned protests.

Activists point out that financial considerations are negligible. The Taiwanese

government is supported by the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa, which says there are more than a million seals along the southern Africa coast and said "emotional fanatics" were misrepresenting the issue. The culling was not as horrific as it sounded, he said. "The skulls of seal pups are extremely fragile, and one well-placed blow to the head kills them instantly."

Blacks appear unmoved by the controversy. An editorial in a township newspaper observed: "How ironic that the outcry against the clubbing of seals far outweighs that against the clubbing of passive (black) demonstrators."

Ron Thomson, an ecologist and the author of a book on wildlife conservation, estimates there are more than a million seals along the southern Africa coast and said "emotional fanatics" were misrepresenting the issue. The culling was not as horrific as it sounded, he said. "The skulls of seal pups are extremely fragile, and one well-placed blow to the head kills them instantly."

Small wonder that Mr Mandela's concern about the conflict in Northern Ireland, and the fate of North American Indians is looked on with some bemusement here. The general view is that there are more pressing issues requiring his attention at home.

Blacks appear unmoved by the controversy. An editorial in a township newspaper observed: "How ironic that the outcry against the clubbing of seals far outweighs that against the clubbing of passive (black) demonstrators."

Activists point out that financial considerations are negligible. The Taiwanese



Home from home: the president-elect of Peru, Alberto Fujimori, tucking into a traditional Japanese dish of sushi at the home of his uncle, Tomiya Inomoto, after he and his wife Susanna were welcomed yesterday in Kawachi, the rural town in Kumamoto, Japan, where his parents were born. On his arrival at Kumamoto, the

Rebels want to put Doe on trial

From AFP IN ABIDJAN

LIBERIAN rebels rejected an offer by President Doe to resign, and said they wished him luck if a foreign country offered him sanctuary. But they warned that they would try to get to him first.

Mr Doe, who seized power in a bloody military coup in the West African country in 1980, had said on Tuesday that he was, in principle, ready to go if his own security and that of his Krahn people were guaranteed. But diplomatic sources reached from Abidjan said that the rebels had rejected the offer.

Tony WoWeiyu, a rebel spokesman contacted in the United States, said: "He has caused too much death and destruction. It's our hope he will remain in Liberia and stand trial for his crimes." But he added: "If a foreign country, for instance America, takes him out before we find him, good luck to him!"

Mr WoWeiyu also said on Tuesday that the National Patriotic Front of Liberia rebels were in control of three-quarters of Monrovia, the Liberian capital.

Residents in Monrovia were caught in crossfire yesterday as the rebels closed in. By Tuesday night, the rebels had infiltrated the suburbs of the capital, while streets closer to the city centre were being roamed by trigger-happy government troops with no apparent leadership, the foreign diplomats said.

In spite of attempts by what remained of the Liberian government to stop arbitrary killings, troops were said to be murdering members of the Gio and Mano tribes that supplied most of the rebel forces.

There have been numerous reports from refugees that the rebels have set up people's tribunals handing out death sentences in northern Liberia since they launched their incursion in Nimba County last December 24.

Other reports have spoken of summary executions of mainly Krahn people in eastern Liberia. The war has claimed at least 5,000 lives, while tens of thousands of refugees have fled to neighbouring countries.

The United States has publicly promised to help Mr Doe if he steps down and asks to leave the country.

His wife and their six children have been in London for six weeks.

The rebels, led by Charles Taylor, a former civil servant, have promised free elections within six months and respect for all ethnic groups, but many people fear bloody reprisals against the Krahn.

Foreign ministers from Gambia, Mali, Nigeria, Togo, Sierra Leone and Guinea were due to meet today in Freetown, Sierra Leone, to work towards a political settlement, officials in Sierra Leone confirmed yesterday.

Scourge of 'the Terror' returns

From JAMES BONE IN PARIS

AFTER last year's nationalist extravaganza marking the bicentennial of the French revolution, France is preparing this year for a more sombre Bastille Day.

Alongside the usual celebrations of "liberté, égalité et fraternité" will be an unpleasant reminder of "la Terreur". Two days before the holiday on June 14, the body of one of the revolution's least loved and most forgotten revolutionary figures will be returned to his homeland.

Marc Guillaume Alexis Vadier, president of the notorious Committee of General Security during the Terror, and now dubbed as the "top cop of the revolution", will be re-interred on his old estate 162 years after dying in exile in Belgium.

Vadier was an obscure functionary in southwestern France when he was elected as a representative of the third estate in 1789. He became one of the first to call for the overthrow of the monarchy, and was among the 366 deputies who voted to execute Louis XVI in January 1793. In January 1794 he was appointed to the Committee of General Security, one of two committees that ran the country with an iron hand.

He set about his task zealously, working 18 hours a day. His philosophy was summed up: "The circumstances demand it, there have to be examples, let's cut off some heads."

In one year the committee ordered 1,814 arrests, many of which ended on the guillotine, and Vadier earned the nickname "Demon of the South".

Vadier took on "that fat stuffed fish" Danton, and when Danton was executed in April 1794, Vadier turned his attention to Robespierre. On 27 July, 1794, Vadier declared: "I was the first to demand the head of the tyrant king; I was the first to expose Danton; well, it has been difficult for me to believe that Robespierre aspires to tyranny, but I do." The next day Robespierre, too, died on the guillotine.

Finally, Vadier was himself denounced and imprisoned, and in 1816 he was forced into exile in Belgium, where he died in 1828 at the age of 92.

The lawyer and historian Gilles Dussert stumbled on his grave 12 years ago in Brussels. Stuck on the headstone was an official notice threatening to close the site because it was not being maintained.

Despite all the festivities on Bastille Day, the French have never been keen on the darker side of the Revolution. But M Dussert overcame the national taboo, and persuaded the authorities to allow Vadier to be reburied at his estate at Peyrouet in l'Ariège, the department he created on the Spanish border.

Appliance of science highlights Sphinx dilemma

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

AFTER years of searching for ways to fight the evils of sewage, a rising water table, and chronic air pollution, Egyptian experts now believe they may have discovered a more prosaic cause for the troubles which have recently beset the 4,600-year-old Sphinx: dynamite.

A group of leading scientists yesterday issued an urgent appeal for the authorities to close 24 quarries in the vicinity of the ancient man-made which guards the pyramids at Giza, 15km (nine miles) west of the capital.

The appeal was made after a study by the Astronomical and Geophysical Research Institute. It was one of several scientific investigations to try to answer the riddle of how to save the monument from the ravages of time.

Alarm bells began to ring in earnest early in 1988 when a 600lb

chunk of the Sphinx's right shoulder plummeted mysteriously to the ground, leading to the dismissal of the chairman of the Egyptian Antiquities Association, Ahmad Kadry.

The latest contribution to the debate on how best to preserve the Sphinx comes only a few months after embarrassed Egyptian authorities admitted that restoration work carried out between 1982 and 1987 was faulty and would have to be redone.

The debate has since been intensified by a proposal from Unesco that a wall up to six metres high should be built around the Sphinx and the pyramids to control tourists and stop encroachment from nearby villages.

The plan, which has been opposed by many Cairenes who see their lucrative takings from tourists under threat, also proposed a virtual ban on motor traffic and the removal of asphalt roads and buildings.

Experts continue to argue, one of the few things they agree on is the

Nato leaders face summit rift over future role

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

NATO leaders at today's summit in London are preparing for serious disagreements over some of the most important issues now facing the alliance in its attempts to adapt to changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

The summit is not expected to be confined to a single issue, as was the meeting in Brussels in March last year when the alliance was split over short-range nuclear missiles. There is concern that there will be a split between the soft-line countries, which want Nato to be wound down and its security responsibilities taken over by the 35-national Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), and the harder-headed members who insist that the CSCE should be merely complementary to the alliance.

The Soviet Union has said it wants the CSCE, consisting of the United States, Canada and all the European countries except Albania, to become the new pan-European security structure, and for both Nato and the Warsaw Pact to be abolished.

Despite the potential scope for disagreement, all 16 Nato members acknowledge that the summit will need to produce a communiqué by tomorrow which confirms to the rest of the world, and particularly to Moscow, that Nato is eager to move into the post-Cold War era.

The four issues threatening to cause trouble before such a communiqué can be agreed are the role of a reconstituted CSCE, the objectives for the next round of the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) negotiations, future arms-control strategies, and nuclear deterrence. A fifth subject, the developing relationship between West and East, could also produce widely different views.

British officials hope the disagreements over the future of the conference will not be too disruptive at the summit. It is more likely that the real row will come at a later stage. Officials from the 35 conference members are to meet this month to begin detailed discussions to prepare for the CSCE summit, expected to be in Paris in November.

Some of the smaller Nato countries, however, are likely to clash with the United States and Britain, which believe the conference should never replace Nato, although both Washington and London are

Leading article, page 13

Defector exposes chink in Castro's armour

From SUSAN ELLIOTT
IN WASHINGTON

SINCE the fall of the Berlin Wall, foreign policy experts have watched Cuba for signs of erosion in its communist rule. Despite reports of defections by civilian and military officials, the Caribbean island has stood firm. This week, however, a chink appeared in the armour of Fidel Castro, the president, when a senior official defected from Moscow by driving to Madrid with his family and flying to Miami.

The Spanish daily *El Nuevo Herald* said the US immigration service understood that Ramon Gonzalez Vergara, aged 46, arrived in America on Tuesday. Señor González was the

deputy minister of Cuba's state committee for prices, with the rank of ambassador.

He is believed to have information about Soviet aid to Cuba and other countries. He told the conservative *ABC* daily in Madrid he had served as the leading negotiator of Soviet aid and that earlier this year President Castro had named him deputy secretary of Comecon, which coordinates the economic policies of the Soviet bloc. Comecon's headquarters are in Moscow. It deals with the economies of Warsaw Pact members as well as Mongolia and Vietnam.

Moscow gives Cuba an estimated \$4 billion to \$5 billion (£2.25 billion to £2.8 billion) in aid a year. In an interview with *ABC*, Señor González

predicted that the aid would take a "very different form" next year, given the Soviet Union's economic woes as President Gorbachev struggles to implement his perestroika reforms against growing public anger at domestic food shortages.

The United States is expected to offer Señor González political asylum and he reportedly has relatives in Miami, which has a strong anti-Castro community. *ABC* said he was under the protection of the CIA in Miami.

A security official at Miami's international airport said that Señor González arrived on an Iberia flight from Madrid on Tuesday afternoon and was taken through a side door. In Madrid, according to a spokesman for a Miami-based Cuban-American

organization, Señor González took refuge in the US embassy and stayed in a flat under tight security.

About four-fifths of Cuba's trade is with members of the Soviet bloc. American foreign policy experts have predicted that Comecon will eventually be shaken up to allow freer trade with Western nations. Cuba has no hard currency of its own and manufacturers little of tradable value.

• PANAMA CITY: The government yesterday ordered all Cuban embassy personnel other than the charge d'affaires, the commercial and economic attachés and the consul to leave the country within 10 days. The embassy has been a strong critic of the government of President Guillermo Endara. (AP)

Schoolgirl from UK kidnapped

More aid offered to East Europe

From MICHAEL BINION IN BRUSSELS

THE group of 24 nations giving help to Poland and Hungary formally extended its aid to four more East European countries yesterday.

East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia were told by foreign ministers of the donor countries that they, as well as Poland and Hungary, could benefit from extensive training and know-how programmes, agricultural, environmental and industrial aid, Western investment and restructuring — provided they continued political and economic reforms.

Romania was pointedly not invited to yesterday's meeting. The ministers, who condemned the recent violent suppression of dissent, said the new government had not fulfilled the necessary conditions.

Yesterday's meeting expressed only lukewarm support for a plan by the commission, which is co-ordinating all aid efforts, to set up a £7 m reserve fund for the four new aid recipients. The money would be used so that Eastern Europe could start paying for Soviet imports in hard currency, and to prevent a collapse of trade within the former Eastern bloc.

The money would be in addition to the £7 million already available in grants, aid and stand-by funds to Poland and Hungary. Britain and the US opposed the idea. Mr Hurd warned of the danger of duplicating with the International Monetary Fund.

Cyprus asks to join EC

Brussels — Cyprus yesterday formally applied to join the European Community (Michael Binion writes).

George Iacovou, the Cyprus foreign minister, made the application when he met Gianni de Michelis, his Italian counterpart.

Other Community members made it clear that Cyprus was unlikely to be admitted as long as it remained divided.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said the issue was not straightforward as there was still "unfinished business" on the island. The government in Nicosia had to take this into account.

Warning over exit of Jews

Kuwait — The Soviet ambassador to the United Nations said Moscow would block the exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel if the government failed to provide firm guarantees that they would not be settled in the occupied territories.

Yuri Vorontsov, in Moscow for the Soviet Communist party congress, told the Kuwaiti News Agency that Soviet Jews would still be able to leave, but not for Israel. (Reuters)

VEHICLE SAFETY RECALL

Yugo cars converted by dealers to run on unleaded fuel, are being recalled due to a possible safety fault related to that conversion.

The new Sana model is not affected. Any owner of a Yugo car (excluding SANA) which has been converted to run on unleaded fuel should immediately contact their nearest Yugo Dealer, so that the necessary checks and modifications can be carried out on a free of charge basis.

Parties agree on German poll date

From IAN MURRAY
IN BONN

WEST Germany's three ruling coalition parties agreed here yesterday that the first post-German election should be held on December 2, the date put forward on Monday night by the ruling East German coalition.

In agreeing the date, Helmut Kohl, the West German chancellor, revealed his confidence that all the external security issues of reunification will by then have been settled. These centre on the Nato membership of a united Germany and the stationing of Soviet troops in East Germany.

Herr Kohl, who hopes to be the first chancellor of a re-united Germany, is to see President Gorbachev in Moscow next week. He is confident that Soviet objections and concerns on the security questions can be overcome.

While the date of the election is now fixed, however, the rules under which it will be fought are far from certain, with coalition partners disagreeing about how the poll should be organised and exactly when reunification should take place.

The rules for the election are crucial to the victory hopes of all sides. The essential question is whether or not there should be two parallel elections, with each of the present countries following its existing rules, or whether there should be a single election using just the West German proportional representation system, in which a party must get 5 per cent of the vote to win seats.

For their first free election last March, the East Germans decided that seats in the Volkskammer would be allocated to parties in each area according to how many votes they received, regardless of what percentage this represented. This meant that each candidate needed only 22,000 votes to be elected.

If the 5 per cent hurdle were to be introduced across both countries as a whole, then a party would need more than two million votes before it would qualify for seats. If it were to be introduced separately in each country, a party in East Germany would need to win 575,000 votes there to be represented.

In either event, smaller East German parties, including the radical intellectual groups which did so much to create the atmosphere for the peaceful revolution, would probably fail to win a seat. One suggested solution is to reward them by lowering the East German hurdle to 3 per cent to give them a better chance.

Jobs on the line, page 23



Kohl and Genscher wrestle over alliance

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

AS THE Nato summit opens in London today the German leadership has differing but complementary priorities.

For Helmut Kohl, the West German chancellor, the essential requirement for continued security and stability is to ensure that the United States does not pull out of Europe. For Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his foreign minister, the paramount need to create a peaceful future is to bring the Soviet Union into Europe.

Although all are now agreed that the way forward for Nato is to become more and more political as an organisation, the future military strength of the alliance is at the heart of the argument. If it is too strong, Herr Genscher fears the Soviet Union will feel dangerously isolated and the reform processes there will be at risk. If it is too weak, with insufficient support from European forces, Herr Kohl will be unable to resist growing public pressure in the US to make significant reductions.

The US administration, battling to contain a huge budget deficit, could make popular cuts by reducing its defence spending, and Nato is a prime target.

General Vernon Walters, the American ambassador in Bonn, likes to point out that the United States spends three times as much on Nato as West Germany does on its entire defence budget. His message is clear: America will

spend less and Europe must spend more.

The chancellor, who has struck up a good personal relationship with Mr Bush, is prepared for American forces in Germany to be reduced progressively to no more than corps strength: around 50,000 instead of the present 239,000.

This would be popular with the German electorate, but the US would be unlikely to leave such a small force without an adequate nuclear umbrella to protect it and without strong, well-equipped European forces alongside.

Herr Kohl can therefore be

in little doubt that if he wants to be sure the US will stay, Nato must keep a nuclear deterrent and European nations will have to shoulder a greater proportion of its cost.

Herr Genscher, on the other hand, feels that the time has come to change the security structures of Europe to match the changes in the political landscape. Although he accepts that Nato has been a successful security alliance, he regards it as having done its defensive job and to be now an organisation needed largely to press disarmament initiatives and arms controls. He sees it as being no more than a nucleus of a European superstructure in which ultimately it would be absorbed. He accepts that it is not yet time for Nato's dissolution, but wants the Soviet Union to be able to look on it as a friend.

"It is absolutely essential not to isolate the Soviet Union," the diplomatic source said. "We know because we were isolated before the second world war, and look what

Herr Teitschik, the Chancellor's "kitchen cabinet" adviser on foreign affairs, has emphasised that national security depends on Nato membership even if there is a very different kind of Nato to the present one. "A united Germany must definitely remain a member of the Atlantic alliance," Herr Teitschik wrote in a recent article. "How else is Germany to guarantee its security in the face of a Soviet Union that, as a nuclear power, will continue to maintain strong armed forces for domestic reasons and to protect its borders? On grounds of sheer size, the Soviet Union will continue to be a security risk for the rest of Europe. But tomorrow's Nato will be a far cry from today's, once disarmament talks have

been brought to a successful conclusion and political changes make headway in Europe and the Soviet Union."

As German reunification

progresses nearer, the foreign minister has therefore noticeably lacked the same public commitment to Nato as that given by Herr Kohl.

The Chancellor is much clearer: "A united Germany is part of the Western community of shared values," he said in a recent interview with *Time* magazine. "We cannot accept anything less ... I am for membership of a united Germany in Nato and I am strictly against having Germany singled out."

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been brought to a successful conclusion and political changes make headway in Europe and the Soviet Union."

Herr Genscher is not so happy about this heavy emphasis on Nato and he is worried that the Soviet Union is being frightened by the Chancellor's rhetoric. The foreign minister still remembers the painful three hours he spent in 1986 with Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, trying to explain away the Chancellor's gaffe in an interview with *Newsweek* when he compared President Gorbachev to Goebbels. Herr Genscher had to persuade Herr Kohl to accept a united Germany into Nato.

The Chancellor makes little secret of the fact that he thinks Herr Genscher is inclined to do his own thing. The Chancellor resents the way his foreign minister tries to implement West German foreign policy without proper consultation. Herr Kohl forcefully showed this in May after Herr Genscher announced that a united Germany was prepared to surrender its sovereignty for a number of years in the interests of quick unity. He quickly slapped down the foreign minister in the Bundestag, saying firmly that a united Germany would be a sovereign Germany from the start.

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Schooling the all-rounder

James Cornford

Equity and efficiency are often seen to be in contradiction. Competition, it is said, is the spur to efficiency — equity gets in the way. For the left, the challenge has been to show that social justice does not lead to economic failure.

In one area at least, equity and efficiency are now more complementary. A modern economy needs an open and egalitarian public education system. The implications for Britain, and especially for England — where education is marked by early selection and low participation — are far-reaching.

In industry today, innovation is at a premium. The shift from sequential to integrated production means that employees must combine practical skills with more theoretical knowledge. Workers and managers need to adapt to new demands, but also to make a creative contribution to product and process development. The traditional answer to skill shortages — provision of job-specific training at work — is not enough. Without a broadly-based general education, people are ill-equipped for technological change.

The English education system provides narrow academic education for the few — only 14 per cent of 18-year-olds get two or more A levels — and various low-level vocational qualifications for the rest, many of whom go straight into jobs which offer no training. The result is that only 35 per cent of 16 to 18-year-olds remain in full-time education and training.

Policies under discussion aim to improve the quality of the separate vocational and academic routes. Policy-makers must realise that the division between an "educated" élite and a "trained" majority is itself the problem.

The division between intellectual and practical study runs deep and A levels epitomise the problem. Despite valuable innovations, GCSE exams are designed to exclude 75 per cent of 16-year-olds from the education system. English education is based on failure, weeding out pupils deemed unfit for the next educational stage. In contrast, the emerging countries of the Pacific Rim have set up systems designed for the majority of students up to 18. They achieve participation rates of over 75 per cent.

It is now an economic necessity for general education to be spread across the population. France is aiming for 80 per cent of 18-year-olds to reach Baccalaureat standard by the year 2000. Even in West Germany, which has a well-established division between academic education and vocational training, 15 per cent of apprentices study the Abitur up to age 18 before they start streamlined training.

The best way to achieve full-time education and training for 16 to 18-year-olds is through a uni-

...and moreover

CLEMENT FREUD

When anthropologists assess this sport-dominated week, I doubt that the Highgate Claiming Race for three and four-year-olds, geldings and mares, over a distance of 1 mile 4 furlongs and 100 yards (better known as the 8.10 at Wolverhampton's evening meeting last Monday) will figure prominently on anyone's list. Cognoscenti are likely to plump for the obvious events: the World Cup, Wimbledon, the Tour de France, Henley. I would argue with their sense of priority.

It is true that in an overall analysis of the Sport of Kings, occurrences at Wolverhampton contribute no more than a minor scratch upon the broad canvas of racing. Compared to Ascot and York, Goodwood, Ayr and Newbury, Wolverhampton is small beer — a Bognor Regis among seaside resorts. "Bigger Bognor," said George V, men of discretion have similarly dispersed the West Midlands circuit.

Adalai Stevenson said of Eisenhower that "he suffered from delusions of adequacy". Wolverhampton racecourse does that. It has all the requisite ingredients for a track: a stand and a bar; an oval circuit, starting stalls and a winning post — yet it does not seem to get them together. Each meeting takes the racecourse authority by surprise. Long queues form, the car park overflows, there are no race-cards for owners, a lamentable absence of brave bookmakers to attract betters, and the jellied-eel stall (£3 for a small bowl) has no chillies in the vinegar bottle and no obvious place into which to spit the bones.

There are other basic faults: they seem to have forgotten to provide the bar with staff, the finishing line is situated in a God-forsaken corner of the track and the stand is built on the east side of the complex, the designers having forgotten that in the Midlands the sun sets in the west. Take your position where you will, face the action and all you see is the blinding light — in front of which there is movement which could well be horses running from somewhere to somewhere else: you can hear a commentary, though unless equipped with shades

and a visor there is little opportunity to check its veracity. We are grandmother, having come a disappointing third in a claiming race at Newmarket the previous Friday, was running again. It is said the trainer, a rabbishy sort of race, and the filly is in fair nick, receiving weight from all the other horses by virtue of the fact that she is to be "claimed" for the minimum £6,500. Mr N. Carlisle, who is able to make the allotted weight of 7st 7lb, has been engaged to ride. "Good man, Carlisle is," said my trainer. I nodded; a small man without a doubt.

The public address crackled into life. "In Race 4" it said. "horse 11 Weareagrandmother carries 7lb overweight."

The fat stab, I said to the trainer, did you know?

The trainer had not known. Mr N. Carlisle hove into sight and we examined him for signs of overindulgence. There were few; he apologised for the extra 16 ounces, explained that he had spent the morning running to get the weight off him in vain. We forgave him, though at that distance an extra pound equals a length, and would have added £500 to the claiming price.

The filly looked good and keen, some way from "fairly modest" as she is described in *Timform*. The trainer gave the jockey a leg up into the six-ounce saddle, we wished Mr Carlisle well and made for the bookmakers who showed Weareagrandmother at 2-1 joint favourite. I would have supported her with serious money had not a travelling head lad who has failed to tip a winner since October 1965 come up to me and said "Yours is a good thing". I backed her to win only what I lost last week.

The rest is history. We made a brief appearance in the winner's enclosure, the horses and I, and accepted a leaded crystal bowl from the sponsors. It would have been churlish to have insisted on an unleadened one.

It being 8.20, with my train due to leave at 8.33, I bade farewell to the sun-kissed racecourse and got into my waiting taxi. People called out "Goodby" and "Well done"; an agreeable place, Wolverhampton; might go and settle near there.

Louis Blom-Cooper replies to Calcutt's call for abolition of the Press Council

Editors, beware the nascent lion

Hilaire Belloc's advice in his poem about the boy eaten by a lion — "always keep a hold of nurse, for fear of finding something worse" — might well apply to the Press Council, established in the year of Belloc's death.

Over the past four decades, three royal commissions on the press and now the second of two departmental committees on privacy have endorsed the proposition that the public and the newspaper industry will be incomparably better served by a self-regulatory body than by any watchdog over press freedom and responsibility that has the faintest taint of government about it.

The Press Council has performed tolerably well in promoting press freedom and journalistic responsibility, but those who mourn its passing need not be too despondent. Almost all the Calcutt committee suggestions for the proposed Press Complaints Commission can be traced to the efforts of all members of the council to persuade its denigrators that reform from within was both desirable and feasible.

Last year the Press Council undertook its own, albeit somewhat belated review for reforming

itself. Out of that review grew a code of practice intentionally limited in scope but which could be revised and extended. If the code was vague (as Calcutt claims), the suggested Calcutt code is not exactly a piece of precise draftsmanship. The council's declaration of principles on privacy, first enunciated in 1976, will take on a particular importance for the new body in the light of Calcutt's discrimination to recommend a legally enforceable remedy.

There are some knotty problems to be resolved in the light of the Calcutt recommendations. None is more troublesome than the present practice that a complainant must waive his right to go to law before the Press Council will adjudicate on the complaint. The council's review committee was deeply divided on replacing the waiver with something that seems to deny a person's unimpeded access to the courts, and urged the industry to find an acceptable alternative. The newspapers' lawyers resolutely refused to do anything. Now that the Calcutt committee has joined the chorus of those who have constantly found the waiver system legally flawed and socially objec-

tional, the industry will have to learn to live without the waiver. In practice, there will be little change in the libel scene, even if the supposed protection of the waiver is dropped.

Calcutt is at least highly vulnerable at one point in its package of reforms. The creation of three new criminal offences relating to physical intrusion by journalists on to private property is fraught with practical difficulties and replete with potential injustice. If the government does not accept the Calcutt recommendation of extending criminal justice to journalistic trespassing the question inevitably arises about what to put in their place. Here, Calcutt itself provides the pointer. Prompted by the Court of Appeal earlier this year, it came near to recommending a new civil wrong for invasion of privacy, but instead decided on an injection of a dose of criminal justice only into the most sensitive part of investigative journalism. In the absence of any new offence of criminal trespass, there should be a general remedy for an invasion of privacy, preferably with legal aid available. This would mean that the citizen could pursue those few news-

papers which are the main culprits and, where appropriate, exact heavy damages. Given a legal remedy in the courts, there would be less compelling need for any complaints body.

In these circumstances, the newspaper industry and the government might feel that the Press Council should remain, perhaps in the revised form proposed by the council itself, rather than erect an expensive new edifice along the lines suggested by Calcutt. But unless and until that happens, the newspaper industry must bow to the irresistible, namely the Press Complaints Commission.

But holding on to nurse's hand must not remain as tenuous as it has been in the recent past. Commitment to the Press Complaints Commission — if commitment there is to be — must be whole-hearted. Otherwise any straying from recognition and acceptance of adjudications by the new body will result in the public's precarious freedom of expression being tragically diminished. Freedom of the press will then gobble up by the lion of government.

The author, chairman of the Press Council, writes here in a personal capacity.

How the profligate bankers can be called to account

After the recent company failures, Bernard Levin offers a remedy that would protect the helpless investor

If there is a banker, reasonably well disposed to me, reading this, I have a request to make. Would he be so kind as to lend me three or four hundred million pounds, as soon as possible and at latest by the weekend? (Or, further reflection, I think I would like the full half-billion: no point in spoiling the ship for a hump of tar, eh, ha-ha-ha?) I don't have any of what I think experts call collateral, but I am certainly willing to sign a paper committing myself to repay a reasonable proportion of the sum in due course — with the obvious proviso that if I lose the lot I shall have nothing to pay, so the loan will have to be (again, I am not entirely sure about the nomenclature) "written off".

As for the purpose of the loan, I was thinking of putting some of it into a most promising enterprise I have recently heard of: the technicalities, of course, I do not understand, but the point of it is to extract moonbeams from cucumbers. The rest I intend to put into the care of a gentleman I bumped into the other day, a Mr Cornfield. (His forename, too, is Bernard, a delightful coincidence, and we got on splendidly; within the hour he was insisting that I should call him "Bernie" — he assured me all his friends do!) Ah, yes, you will say: Levin's in a merry mood again. So he is; but what exactly is the difference between my nonsense and the daily reality as it unfolds in the financial pages? Let us start at the top, with the serious financial difficulties in which Mr Donald Trump has found himself. It is not necessary to go into the details of his plight, or how he got into it; in any case, I would not understand the intricacies, and you would not understand my exposition. Just suck this very ripe plum, and mind you get a hankie first, or the juice will run down your chin:

Bankers who are owed millions of dollars by Donald Trump ... agreed yesterday to keep him out

of the bankruptcy courts... all but one bank signed an agreement... to provide a \$20 million bridging loan enabling Mr Trump to pay interest on bonds... Over the next 30 days the banks will complete the paperwork for the balance of a \$65 million rescue package... the deal will go ahead with... the... 70 banks that had agreed to defer... payments on \$850 million of Mr Trump's \$2 billion bank debts...

The most urgent and important words in that report — at any rate the most urgent and important to you and me — are "all but one bank signed", and it therefore behoves me to name, with a 99-gun salute, this noble maverick, this magnificent loner, this shining example. It is the West German Dresdner Bank, and my advice to all those of you who have money to invest is to put every penny you have into its care, confident that it will be carefully looked after, and will grow at a reasonable rate. As for the 70 other banks which rushed to sign the loan agreement, go and stand outside any of them, and when you see a lorry unloading thousands of cucumbers, run.

Do not believe that such goings-on are limited to the United States; as far as my reading about such matters goes, British banking is actually worse. I had a lot of fun with Ferranti not long ago (which is a great deal more than the shareholders did), but such horrors can be found wherever you look. I see, for instance, that the Securities and Investment Board is urgently seeking the key to the stable door, following the B&C crash. All sorts of remedies are being touted: institutions may even have to be more careful about where they put their clients' money or may have to limit their deposits to 10 per cent in any one bank — good gracious! Indeed, a far more revolutionary principle is being discussed: firms may be obliged to tell their clients just what they have done with their



money — imagine! Why, Barclays has already had to set aside £100 million against their loans to B&C — think of it!

And what about Coloroll, which went down the sluice a few weeks ago £300 million short of a pop-up solvency? Yet here is what a representative of the receivers said, when asked whether the crash might bankrupt some of Coloroll's suppliers: "It depends on how deep the creditors are in and how well they have read the tea leaves over the past months. They were given enough warning."

Oh they were, were they? Yes, they were: hear also representations of Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, on the disaster. "Anyone who goes out and buys textile assets at the current time has got to be half-baked if they pay a high price, because there's no sign of an upturn."

My opening request is beginning to look perfectly possible if I could only discover who Coloroll's bankers were. I bet I could persuade them to stake me. After all, the receiver and the man at Kleinwort's, had no interest to declare, and they apparently had no doubt that Coloroll had been doomed long before the shutters came down. So why didn't Coloroll

One letter describes an anxious afternoon when the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh came to tea at her Cornwall home (her husband, "Boy" Browning, was the Duke's treasurer). "Before they arrived, Daphne had had the fireplace cleaned," she says. "Throughout the delicious tea she was terrified the Queen could smell the disinfectant."

Rival draws

Mick Jagger, Frank Sinatra and the London concert last night were not alone in missing the riveting World Cup semi-final on television. Despite the soccer mania, it was impossible to get a seat for Miss Saigon, *Phantom of the Opera* or *Buddy*.

The hit shows are unaffected because people had to book their tickets months in advance," says Roger Filer, managing director of Stoll Moss, owner of 12 London theatres. "And at this time of the year many theatre-goers are foreign tourists who are not interested in England's appearance in the World Cup — perhaps not interested in football at all."

But the West End was still affected by the drama in Turin. When the shows ended, there was hardly a taxi to be had. Hundreds of cabs switched off their yellow lights and went absent for the duration of the match.

Porter's next stop?

Tady Porter, the controversial leader of Westminster city council, has set her sights on a seat in the House of Lords. The news will come as some relief to Labour MPs, and even some Tories, who feared that she

roll? Why, indeed, didn't Mr John Ashcroft, the boss ("His severance payment is still being negotiated")? Ah, cry those (Arthur Scargill is one) who would solve problems of this nature by nationalising the whole of business: the bankers and capitalists can do nothing but oppress the working-classes, put the assets into the hands of the sons of toil, and prosperity will come galloping over the horizon, will it not? Alas, not necessarily. Listen to this enchanting sentence: "The accounts of... the Transport and General Workers' Union reveal an £8.7 million deficit for 1989, but the general secretary, Ron Todd, yesterday denied that the union was facing a financial crisis." Very well; who were the TGWU's bankers, and what has become of the discreet cough behind the hand?

Never mind discreet coughs; what has become of the principle of not throwing good money after bad? I buy no shares, neither do I sell them, but if I did, and one of my investments was doing badly, I would probably get rid of it. I say "probably", because close inspection of the shares might well suggest, on good grounds, that they had a real chance of rising again. But if I learned that the company whose shares I held was borrowing substantial sums of money from banks in order to pay the interest on its bank loans, I would get the hell out of the shares at whatever price they would fetch, and if I then discovered that the company was borrowing more money to enable it to pay the interest on the interest, I would get the hell out of the bank in question as well.

I do not know the solution; I am

by no means sure that I know the problem. Amateurish? Leave it to good old Fred? Lack of training? Insufficient penalties for failure? Insufficient rewards for success?

Pass. But perhaps I can offer a practical suggestion. When the crash comes, the experts always announce that the "secured creditors" (which almost invariably means the banks and big institutions) will get their money, though the small shareholders, unsecured creditors and the staff will get nothing. What about legislation which inverts that pyramid?

wanted a safe seat in the Commons as a reward for the Conservatives' landslide victory at Westminster in the recent local elections. However, Lady Porter has confided to colleagues on Westminster council that she would like a life peerage, preferably before the next local elections in 1994.

Despite the huge Tory majority, her position at the helm of the showpiece London council is not as secure as it may seem. "Some of the new intake are very ambitious, and will cause her problems," one Tory councillor says. "But she is not interested in becoming an MP, since she would not have the power she does now."

Lady Porter's main ambition is to become the head of a powerful quango, preferably the National Consumer Council, but is resigned to not achieving it while she leads such a politicized local authority. A life peerage would give her the necessary platform. As another grocer's daughter, she is ideally qualified to head the NCC.

Whip hand

The latest television craze in America features "a sensual blonde ritually humiliating middle-aged white males in public — not surely, the sort of thing Mary Whitehouse would countenance on British television screens. She will be miffed, then, to discover that the series is already being shown here. But before firing off another angry letter to the BBC, the racy description does not apply to some new salacious soap; it is how the American magazine *Cable Guide* describes Mrs Thatcher's twice-weekly performances at the dispatch box.

DIARY

ment has not thought this through properly." Nor, he says, does the plan take into account more mundane matters. "What do you do when the village bitch is on heat and every dog in the county wants to get at her? That is a case of dogs out of control, but you can't legislate to stop it. This proposal doesn't quite fit the bill."

The foxhounds will voice their concern when Chris Patten's environment protection bill comes before the Lords today. Such is their displeasure, they are expected to vote for a compulsory dog registration scheme, against the government's wishes.

Reeky clean

The image of the romantic novelist Daphne du Maurier as a humourless recluse looks set to be transformed, 15 months after her death. Margaret Forster, who is working on her biography, has unearthed a cache of personal letters which show that the author enjoyed life and had a fine sense of humour. "She was tremendously witty," says Forster, author of a dozen novels and biographies of Thackeray and Elizabeth Barrett. "Reading some of her letters I have laughed out loud."

Huntsmen, needless to say, are appalled by the prospect. Lord Mancroft, former Master of the Wiltshire and Gloucestershire hunt, says: "Hunt saboteurs could bring legal actions by complaining to the police about foxhounds being out of control. The govern-

ment



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MOTHBALLING NATO

Nato's leaders, who gather in London today, face a paradox. They meet to celebrate a victory, but they are unmistakably a defensive, confronted by a growing belief that there is no longer a serious security threat from Nato therefore, having served its turn, may no longer be required. Alliances are in danger of dissolution both when they fail and when they succeed. Nato arose from a danger which alarmed everybody: Soviet military adventurism at the start of the Cold War. Such threats to Europe's stability as exist today are political and economic rather than military. To justify its existence, Nato must identify some new contribution.

The performance of Nato's government leaders so far has been unimpressive. Any alliance linking 16 sovereign democracies with 600 million voters is bound to be cumbersome. All institutions resist changes which go beyond the piecemeal and incremental. But this is why the future of Nato presents so crucial, and exciting, a stimulus to Western political cooperation. There is nothing more dispiriting to the European voter than a huddle of defence ministers moving round expensive hotels and reshuffling the alphabet of Nato, WEU, CSCE, EC and IEPG.

Allied leaders must now concentrate on two issues. Certainly an enthusiasm for peace dividends should not throw the baby out with the bathwater. Some matching defence capacity should be retained against the Soviet Union (or Russia). But the strength of this case is weakened by a public perception that nobody at the top of Nato is thinking further ahead. This means thinking the unthinkable: Nato may not exist for ever. The Atlantic alliance has already broken most longevity records for great power treaties. Beyond a certain point, redefining its role must stop and the admission be made that the valiant warhorse may one day be ready to go out to grass.

When West German politicians such as Hans-Dietrich Genscher utter such radicalism, they are taken (correctly) to be seeking ways out of the security dilemma posed by German reunification. For President Bush or Mrs Thatcher to say the same would be more significant, forcing the whole alliance to concentrate on the conditions to be satisfied before Nato could safely consider its own demise.

The most obvious of these conditions is the establishment of stable democracies in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Nato may have

"won the Cold War" but, by its own stated aims, it still has unfinished business. Those aims include overcoming the division of Europe as well as extending democracy. That does not necessarily mean that Nato should become a "more political" organisation, a much canvassed, but vague, idea. Nato is a defensive military alliance, not a political club. Although Nato has no way to guarantee sound regional or national government, its continued presence might discourage the resurgence of European adventurism. But that is merely a reason to delay dissolution until stable democracies are in place.

Debating such a schedule of stability certainly merits greater priority on this summit's agenda than a discussion of Nato's ability to respond to threats outside the Soviet bloc. Such a mission is increasingly beloved of Nato planners, frantic at the impending loss of their reason for existence. This is a classic instance of an army looking for a new war to fight. While there may be a role for the nations of the North Atlantic to play in policing the rest of the world, it is a role best played by some new organisation.

The same goes for the other expansionist dream of the planners: that Nato should embrace the former Warsaw Pact states of Eastern Europe by offering them guarantees against any resurgence of Soviet imperialism. Nato has been a passive defence system, preferring the stability of the status quo to the risks of trying to advance the demise of communism — hence its refusal to assist the Hungarian uprising in 1956. Any attempt to extend Nato would instantly stop the already halting course of Soviet liberalisation, reviving the paranoia of the Russian generals and turning them firmly against Mikhail Gorbachev. The tighter encirclement of the Russian heartlands is something few Soviet strategists could accept. It would also trigger a schism within Nato which could well destroy the alliance.

The challenge for Nato's military strategists is to evolve operational doctrines compatible with a progressive scaling down of the organisation's activity. For the time being, the alliance must be able to act decisively should the Soviet military threat increase. Politicians must explain to their electorates that Nato can be modernised militarily, while being reduced politically. The power it controls is greater than ever seen on earth. The mothballing of that power is surely the most welcome challenge the West has ever faced.

WHAT SCARGILL DID WRONG

There is a corner of South Yorkshire that is for ever Eastern Europe. Arthur Scargill's continued presidency of the National Union of Mineworkers has been rendered untenable by the Lightman report into allegations of misconduct by the union leadership during and since the miners' strike. Even if satisfactory answers to the question why foreign donations never reached the NUM emerge from the new enquiry announced by the union's national executive yesterday, the report has sorely damaged what was left of Mr Scargill's reputation.

The evidence of incompetence, exacerbated by a refusal to seek professional advice, is more than sufficient for a vote of no confidence in him at the union's annual conference on Monday. The fact that such a motion is unlikely to be tabled is a measure of Mr Scargill's continued hold over his union. No ordinary member of the NUM has anything to gain by prolonging an affair that only adds insult to the injured pride and prospects suffered by miners and their families as a consequence of the 1984 strike.

Mr Scargill is prevented from taking the honourable course by his own self-righteousness, which enabled him to justify himself and Peter Heathfield, his NUM general secretary, with the words: "We have done nothing wrong." Mr Lightman, a barrister whose past advocacy on behalf of the NUM does not suggest lack of sympathy for the union, had already remarked of Mr Scargill: "He did not recognise the impropriety of what seemed to me to have been so obviously wrong."

Though Mr Scargill and Mr Heathfield have presided over the collapse of the NUM's influence within the labour movement, they and their placemen still control the union from their Sheffield redoubt. The Nottinghamshire-based Union of Democratic Mineworkers

failed to recruit elsewhere and, like the relatively moderate South Wales miners, has dwindled in numbers. That leaves Mr Scargill's strongholds, Yorkshire and Durham, in possession of a still-important industry.

British Coal is powerless to interfere in this enclave. Some miners remain so bitter towards their employers and the press that they have been persuaded to nurse Mr Scargill's grievances as their own. Imprisoned by their siege mentality, many of the mining communities find great difficulty in looking beyond the Scargill era. Perhaps there is a touch of vanity, too, their leader's ability to make the headlines is diminished but not extinguished.

There is a future for coalmining in Britain. The green revolution has thrown all predictions of energy costs into flux, but coal at present looks more robust than nuclear energy — if CO₂ and sulphur emissions can be reduced economically. As long as Mr Scargill leads the miners, their response to the challenge of privatisation, whenever that may come, will be as violently hostile as it was to Sir Ian MacGregor's overdue rationalisation. Yet a privatised industry, with a flexible and enthusiastic workforce, could bring new life to the coalfields. The NUM will have to adapt to meet the new structure of ownership, if it is not to become a spectator at its own funeral.

The Soviet, East German and Hungarian miners, who were made to contribute to Mr Scargill's strike, face a bleak future as a result of economic forces over which they have had no control. They are paying the price for their governments' totalitarian immobility. The British miners are led by a man who supported that totalitarianism. If those miners do not cashier him next week, they will have only themselves to blame if cheap imported coal proves their undoing.

BRUSHING AWAY THE COBWEBS

When Dylan Thomas visited the Royal Institution of South Wales Museum in the 1940s, a dusty place that had barely changed in the course of a century, he declared, "This museum should be in a museum."

Yesterday's Museum of the Year Award showed that British museums have learnt Thomas's lesson. While still being of the times, they are starting to move with the times too. Museums are a British success story. In the past decade, their number has more than doubled. Last year they saw 100 million visitors. After reading and watching television, visiting museums is the most popular British spare-time activity. The judges yesterday found the competition so impressive that they were forced to announce joint winners: the Imperial War Museum and Manchester's Museum of Science and Industry.

Perhaps the best-known of the new wave of British museums, York's Jorvik Viking Centre, takes visitors on an electronically operated train through a reconstruction of Viking York. It now has a million visitors a year, and can accommodate no more. The Museum of the Moving Image, opened on London's South Bank in September 1988 on a site destined to be a car park, has sold nearly a million tickets since then. It operates on private money alone. Actors guide visitors through 5,000 years of film development from ancient Egyptian shadow plays to a television production studio. The actors double as user-friendly security guards. Such innovation is thriving in smaller museums too. In Cornwall, John Southern set

up the Thorburn Museum, a collection of wildlife paintings, in his cowshed. When few visitors appeared, he set about recreating the parkland, animals and smells of the paintings. Now four times as many people grace his display. In the Wigan Pier Heritage Centre, actors play turn-of-the-century town-dwellers. Children are liable to be grabbed by the scruff of the neck by the truant-catcher, sat at desks in a Victorian classroom and told to clean their nails and do their sums. They love it. Museums these days like to live history as well as look at it.

Scholarship need not suffer. The Jorvik Centre boasts rich archaeological data. Manchester's Science and Industry Museum is no less educationally rigorous for allowing children to touch the exhibits. A whole room — the Xperiment Centre — is devoted to allowing visitors to press buttons and watch the workings of magnetism, electricity and optics. Children will learn if they have fun. They will not learn when dragged through a lifeless museum.

No longer need museums consist of rows of Roman coins under glass, threatening uniformed guards and DO NOT TOUCH. Britain's thriving museums are far from turning the country into a theme park. History is a subject valuable in itself. More Britons, and tourists, are being educated about the past, are enjoying it and are carrying the experience through to the future than ever before. This is education every bit as important as takes place in classroom or college. Museums are a national achievement worth a boast.

Fairer play for football on TV

From the Director of Programmes, Thames Television

Sir, Mr Paul Fox's reply (July 3) to your leader on television's coverage of the World Cup (July 2) offers scant justification for inflicting six or seven peak-time clashes of virtually identical pictures of the same football matches over a period of 13 days.

Mr Fox cites the BBC's commitment to the World Cup competition. How, then, does he explain the curious policy during the first round of the finals of consigning much of the BBC's coverage to its minority channel, and even abandoning, in whole or in part, some of the matches assigned to the BBC under the alternation agreement made with ITV? ITV, by contrast, covered every match available to it live and complete.

Mr Fox also argues that the BBC has made a major long-term investment in coverage of England — yet, as part of the alternation agreement, the BBC allowed ITV exclusive coverage of one of England's three first-round matches, so as to avoid an intolerable level of duplication.

The same goes for the other expansionist dream of the planners: that Nato should embrace the former Warsaw Pact states of Eastern Europe by offering them guarantees against any resurgence of Soviet imperialism. Nato has been a passive defence system, preferring the stability of the status quo to the risks of trying to advance the demise of communism — hence its refusal to assist the Hungarian uprising in 1956. Any attempt to extend Nato would instantly stop the already halting course of Soviet liberalisation, reviving the paranoia of the Russian generals and turning them firmly against Mikhail Gorbachev. The tighter encirclement of the Russian heartlands is something few Soviet strategists could accept. It would also trigger a schism within Nato which could well destroy the alliance.

Then, mysteriously, coverage of Ireland also became a *sine qua non* of the BBC's existence: so two of the quarter-finals were duplicated. The BBC was offered a straight split of the semi-final — no response. Or a split of the non-England semi-final with the third place play-off — again, no response.

The BBC's approach — we'll cover England, ITV can do what it likes — is underpinned by Mr Fox's further assertion that the BBC usually wins head-to-head encounters by a two-to-one margin. Given the inherent advantage the BBC enjoys of being able to offer the same pictures with no advertising breaks, perhaps what Mr Fox should really be asking himself is why up to 40 per cent of the football audience last weekend chose the ITV version?

The BBC's appetite for sporting events is legendary, and its pride in its sports department understandable. But as it struggles this week to digest a series of exclusive cricket, motor-racing and tennis (no room for Henley these days, Wimbledon please note), perhaps the BBC may conclude, in its own interests as well as the public's, that it should swallow its pride before it chokes on it, and alternate coverage of non-exclusive events such as the World Cup with its fellow public service broadcaster, ITV.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID ELSTEIN,
Director of Programmes,
Thames Television,
306-316 Euston Road, NW1.

From Mr D. A. Thompson
Sir, Despite Mr Fox's protestations there can be no justification for the duplication of Saturday evening's football match. The game was between two foreign teams, and the BBC has no public service obligation to the Republic of Ireland.

Yours faithfully,
D. A. THOMPSON,
High Birches, 21 Wood Ride,
Pents Wood, Kent.

In abundance
From Mr P. J. Sturges
Sir, On my way to my office this morning, the doorsteps of the West End appear to be piled high with copies of Yellow Pages directories. My own office has received eight copies (because we have eight telephone lines); seven of them are totally superfluous.

Could British Telecom not save some trees (and a fortune) by merely asking their subscribers how many copies they require?

Yours faithfully,
PETER J. S. STURGES,
Boyce Evans & Sheppard,
31 Queen Anne Street, W1.

June 21.

Dog registration

From the Chief Executive of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Sir, Your report, "Plan to register dogs may go ahead" (July 2), implies that local authorities could resent having to operate such a scheme because of the costs involved. This misses the point. One of the selling points of a registration scheme is that not only could it be set up on a self-financing basis, it could also generate the extra funding needed to pay for dog wardens.

The £40 million annual cost quoted in your report with a charge of about £15 per dog is based on research done by the London School of Economics last year. The figure covers the cost of initial registration, maintenance of the system, and a dog warden service. With a dog population of 7.4 million in the UK it doesn't take a mathematician to calculate that a registration scheme could actually boost rather than drain local authority funds.

Far from complaining, most hard-pressed local authorities would welcome a scheme which gives them the resources they need to discharge their responsibilities. The major drawback of all the Government's proposals to date is that they place new duties on local authorities without providing the

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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From Lord Butterfield

Sir, Sadly, the tone of your leader, "A healthier service" (June 30), is likely to perpetuate the longstanding frictions between the medical professions and the managers in the new-style NHS. We British usually blame "the other side" for any shortcomings of performance.

Twenty years' service on area and regional health boards and authorities has shown me such groups are prone to blame the "consultants" or "general practitioners" for things going wrong. Similarly, over 30 years on medical staff councils in London, Nottingham and here in Cambridge have provided countless examples of doctors blaming "the administrators" when there have been difficulties.

This cold war must stop. It is over 20 years since Mancunian Professor Reg Evans joined us at Guy's to study 12 London hospitals. It later emerged from an evaluation of this study by an American, George Wieland, that those places where we judged the medical administrators, the (long-lost) matron and the chairman of the medical staff got on well together personally and learned how to understand each other's difficulties and help each other were in fact the most efficient institutions, with the highest through-puts of cases.

Surely this approach must be right, especially in medical organisations where the prime impulse ought to be to help people, not to make profits — that is why so many of us welcome the dropping of the phrase "internal market" and its replacement by phrases like "joint resource pricing and planning".

JOHN BUTTERFIELD,
39 Claremont Street,
Cambridge.
June 30.

From Dr Stephen Golding

Sir, Your leading article on NHS reform stated that one objective was to end the vested interests of consultants and their domination over hospital managers. I doubt if many of my colleagues recognised the present state of the NHS from your description.

Over the years of service cuts imposed by management in the face of financial stringency many doctors have made good, out of their own commitment, the deficiencies which have opened up in the service.

One example: on a recent Friday I played my usual full day with an evening seeing pa-

Community care

From Mr Alan B. Lazarus

Sir, Your leader misses the point. The reason why directors of social services funds for the mentally ill (leading article, June 29) will allow local authorities to use that money for non-essential services, with the hospital closure programme proceeding apace.

Instead of closure, many should be upgraded and improved to provide the basic human care and treatment that the mentally ill deserve. In my experience adequate community care is available in very few areas.

Your article says that patients in mental hospitals are deprived of "dignity, respect and stimulation". My experience, as a father of a daughter suffering from chronic schizophrenia, reflects the completely opposite view; but all too frequently hospital care and treatment have been refused because of the closure programme.

My daughter has received wonderful care and treatment as a hospital in-patient over the last two years, as a result of which she is now rehabilitated.

But there are no facilities in the community in the North West Thames Regional Health Authority which would provide round the clock, adequately trained professional staff to enable such rehabilitation to take place.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN B. LAZARUS (Member,
medico-legal committee, National
Schizophrenia Fellowship),
William Foux & Co. (solicitors),
176 Old Brompton Road, SW5.

June 29.

From the Chairman of the Kennel Club

Sir, Your report on the dog registration scheme suggested that the police should be rescued.

Surely, you do not believe that those criminals who use dogs to attack the police, the bestial element in society who indulge in dog fighting, the owners of lurcher dogs or those who dump pregnant bitches on motorways will be converted by registration to better behaviour.

It is suggested that the cost of a registration scheme is £40 million annually with a "one-off" registration fee of £15 per dog. After the initial registration, with some 700,000 new dogs a year to be registered, a yearly deficiency of about £30 million is then left. Who pays?

Yours etc.,
COLIN DIXON,
Whitley Bay High School,
Deneholme,
Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number = (071) 782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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From Mr Gwynfor Evans

Sir, There is agreement in Wales that the country's most sacred place is St David's Cathedral and its immediate vicinity. David established his monastery at Glynnhosin in the 6th century, and St David's is the most famous cradle of Welsh Christianity. For a thousand years two pilgrimages were considered the equivalent of one to Rome.

It is within a mile or two of St David's Cathedral that the British and American governments have recently agreed to construct a hideous over-the-horizon radar base.

St David's was selected from 166 sites considered in the United Kingdom. This monstrous throwback to cold-war aggression, planned when the Warsaw Pact was still intact, will have, extending for half a mile, 35 aerials, 16 of them 135 ft high.

Locating this installation on the pilgrim's way, so close to St David's Cathedral, in the midst of the beauty of the Pembrokeshire National Park, would be an outrageous act of sacrifice.

Yours truly,

GWYNFOR EVANS
(Honorary President,
Plaid Cymru),
Talar Wen,
Pencarreg,
Llanbydder, Dyfed.
June 29.

Teaching languages



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE July 4: The Hon Humphrey Maud was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Buenos Aires.

Mrs Maud had the honour of being received by Her Majesty.

Chief Engineer Anyakwu was received by The Queen upon his appointment as Commonwealth Secretary-General.

The Earl of Mansfield (First Crown Estate Commissioner) was received by Her Majesty.

Mr Frank Mintram was received by The Queen upon his retirement as Sergeant-at-Arms and Chief Assistant to the Master of the Household who The Queen invested him with the insignia of a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Chancellor, visited Cambridge University today and was received by the Vice-Chancellor (Professor David Williams).

Mr Brian McGrath was in attendance.

The Princess Royal, Patron, British Executive Service Overseas, this morning received Mr Gordon Wilson at Buckingham Palace, on behalf of the Association of Musicians, attendants of the Academy of Government Ceremony at St Marylebone Church, Marylebone Road, London NW1.

The Hon Mrs Vivian Barton, Squadron Leader David Barton, RAF and Mr Richard Arbitor were in attendance.

The Princess of Wales, Patron, Birthright, this evening attended a concert given by the Philharmonic Orchestra at Buckingham Palace.

KENSINGTON PALACE

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KENSINGTON PALACE

July 4: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this morning opened Lazimier Lightouse, the Administrative Centre of London Lightouse.

Her Royal Highness later opened the Crabtree and Evelyn Tudor Garden at London Lightouse, Lancaster Road, W1.

The Lady Glenconner was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE

ST JAMES'S PALACE

July 4: The Duke of Kent, President of the Automobile Association, today attended a Meeting of the Committee at Farm House, Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Commander Roger Walker was in attendance.

His Royal Highness this evening received Dr Reinaldo Figueredo Planchart, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Venezuela, accompanied by HE DR Francisco Kerdel Vegas, the Venezuelan Ambassador.

Mr Andrew Palmer was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent this afternoon attended the Lawn Tennis Championships, Wimbledon, London SW19.

Mrs Julian Tomkins was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE

July 4: Queen Elizabeth The

Queen Mother this evening visited gardens in the City of Westminster (Paddington) under the auspices of the London Gardens Society and the London Children's Flower Society.

Mrs Jane Walker-Okeover and Major Sir Ralph Astanather, Bt were in attendance.

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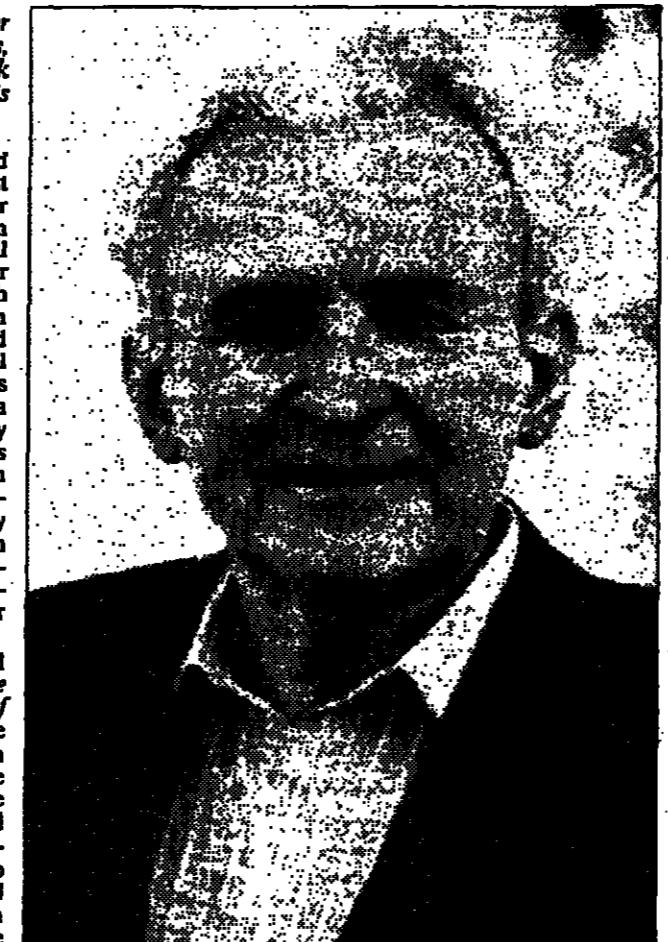
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CLARENCE HOUSE

July 4: Queen Elizabeth The

OBITUARIES

MAURICE GIRODIAS



Maurice Girodias, proprietor of the Olympia Press in Paris, died on July 3 of a heart attack aged 71. He was born in Paris in 1919.

MAURICE Girodias achieved international fame as the first man to publish Vladimir Nabokov's novel *Lolita*, in 1955. But he was already well known in literary circles for his championship of such authors as Henry Miller, Jean Genet, Lawrence Durrell and the highly prized erotic novelist Georges Bataille. Girodias, who spent a few days in jail in the early 1960s in the course of his running battle with French government censors, also published many straightforwardly pornographic books, often under pseudonyms which disguised such writers as Alexander Trocchi and Christopher Logue.

Some of the latter, typical examples include *White Thighs* and *The Sexual Life of Robinson Crusoe*, were considerably better written and printed than their more numerous counterparts in the cyclostyled format that used to be so common in under-the-counter erotica. They also incorporated a certain brand of sardonic humour which might be said to have characterised their publisher.

Maurice Girodias had at that stage touch the novel, perhaps anticipating the reaction (1958) of "Two concerned parents". "Frankly, we have forbidden our youngster to enrol in any course taken by Nabokov, and we would be in fear for any young girl who ran into him after dark".

In Britain Edward Heath as Chief Whip had personally requested Nigel Nicholson to drop publication in the interests of "political peace". Nicholson refused, and lost the Bournemouth seat he held for the Tories as a result – but his publishing firm went on by word-of-mouth. And this success became assured when Graham Greene chose it as one of the three best books of 1955 in *The Sunday Times*.

Girodias had always felt strongly about the conviction for treason of Roger Casement, and in 1959 he published (with Sidgwick & Jackson in Britain and Grove Press in New York) in collaboration with Peter Singleton-Gates, *The Black Diaries*, a biography of Casement which incorporated the famous diaries, which were then made available for the first time.

But *Lolita* did very poorly at first, attracting neither reviews nor sales. There can be no starker example in publishing history of commercial success having been attained by word-of-mouth. And this success became assured when Graham Greene chose it as one of the three best books of 1955 in *The Sunday Times*.

Then Girodias and Nabokov

attracted largely because the latter disliked the former's exploitation of the book as the flag of an anti-censorship crusade. They aired their differences in the *Evergreen Review*; in 1963 Girodias was born on August 3, 1902.

When the American Customs indicated that they would not proceed against *Lolita* the way was clear for publication in America (by Putnam's) and the rights were wrested from the Olympia Press in a famous battle, in which the Russian-born lawyer Lubia Sherman got Girodias to settle for a third of the royalties, very much less than he had initially insisted upon. But this represented a considerable income for him, nevertheless. Nabokov was to have the last word, however, because Girodias had originally told him: "They'll never make a movie out of that".

Girodias continued to goad the French government, which, true to its then Gaullist principles, hounded him out of the country. He left for America in 1964, took up American citizenship, and did not return until more than 10 years later, when the climate had changed.

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Then Gi

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

For everyone who makes himself great will be humbled, and everyone who humiliates himself will be made great.
St Luke 14: 11 G.N.B.

BIRTHS

APEDAILE - On July 3rd 1990 in Montreal to Charlotte Irene Hodgkinson and Dennis, a boy and a girl, a brother for Matthew and Timothy.

ATTINSON - On July 4th in High Wycombe, to Alison and Colin, a son, Andrew Philip, a brother for Naomi Attinson. May 23rd 1990, in Edits near Wokingham, Richard, a daughter, Charita Priya Lillian, Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London.

CHESTER - On Monday July 2nd 1990, at St George's Hospital, Lambeth Road, to Michele Irene Preston and Christopher, a daughter, Rose.

CHEDNEY - On June 29th, to Harriet and John, a son, Jess, a brother to Millie, Theo and Letty.

CLARKE - On June 29th, at Allerton, Whitchurch, to Maggie, Ian, Wendy and David, a son, Joseph William and Marshal, brother to Matthew and Timothy.

COOPER - On Friday July 3rd 1990, to Sarah Jane, a son, George David, a brother for Charlotte.

CORCORAN - On June 27th, to Linda and David, a daughter, Meena Louise, a sister for Sophie Elizabeth Fox. - On July 1st, to Jane and Paul, a daughter, Sarah Jane, a sister for James.

CRESSDENE - On July 3rd, at Redditch, to Mary, a brother to Richard and Peter.

DEWDNEY - On July 3rd, to William Edmund Noel, a brother for Kate.

DODDINGHAM - On June 29th, to Sophie Elizabeth Apedale.

HORNDE - On July 1st, at Queen Mary's Hospital, to Elizabeth (nee Trussdale) and Mark, a daughter, Isabel Margaret.

NAMBLE - On July 3rd, to Joanne and Jess, a daughter.

OAKESON - On July 2nd, at Charing Cross Hospital, to Shaw and Richard, a son, John Joseph John Jone, a brother for Richard and Alex.

POLLARD - On July 3rd, to Vivian (neé Cooper) and Alan, a son, Christopher, a brother to Karen.

RANDALL - On June 22nd, at John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, to Sarah (née McDonald), Peter, a son, James William.

SEREDO - On July 3rd, to Mark and Suzanne, a daughter, Natasha Ann, Sbs 13½.

SIMPSON - On July 4th, in Suemos Alfonso, Spain, to Summerill and Rupert, a daughter, Juliet, a sister for Daniel.

VANDEUR - On July 3rd 1990, to Anna (nee Fraser) and Simon, a daughter.

DEATHS

BENTLEY - On July 4th 1990, peacefully at home Ferguslie Cottage, Buchlyvie, Striven after a long illness. John Edward, a son of F.C.R.S. Dearly beloved husband of Cecily, much loved father of Jennifer, Sandra, Debbie and Debbie. Devoted grandson of Richard and Catherine, and caring son-in-law to Mrs. J.N. Smith. Renowned surgeon at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Yorkhill, Glasgow. Funeral service at St. Bartholomew's Church, Edinburgh, on Monday July 9th 1990 at 11.45 am. Thereafter to Glasgow Crematorium. No flowers please by request. Donations to National Asthma Campaign, 500 Upper Street, London, N1 2CW.

WHITEHOUSE - On July 3rd 1990, peacefully at home St. Mary's Hospital, 80 year old Louis, husband of Zena, a much loved father of Geoffrey and daughter-in-law Linda. Funeral service at home on Thursday 12th July 1990 at 1.30 pm to which all friends and colleagues are respectively invited. Family and friends donations if desired may be sent for Cancer Research or Yorkhill Children's Trust.

BISHOP - On July 2nd 1990, peacefully at home, Royal Free, 80 year old Louis, husband of Zena, a much loved father of Geoffrey and daughter-in-law Linda. Funeral service at home on Thursday 12th July 1990 at 1.30 pm. Thereafter to St. Mary's Crematorium, Friday July 6th at 3.30 pm. Flowers or donations to the family.

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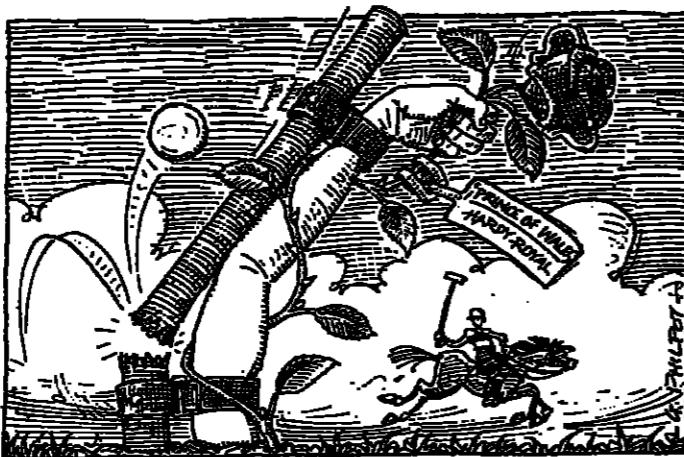
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HEALTH

MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Stuttaford

Baring a royal arm

Fractures of the shaft of the humerus, the long bone in the upper arm which the Prince of Wales broke last week, usually heal well, but as the Prince needed surgery to realign and fix the pieces together it must be assumed that the break was a nasty one. His was a compound, comminuted fracture; compound because, according to press reports, his skin was broken, comminuted because it was not a clean break, but one in which the bone was shattered.

The humerus supplies support for important blood vessels and nerves as they run down the arm, rather in the same way as a garden post supports a delicate climber. If the post snaps off in a gale, the climbers may be torn and die; likewise, when the humerus is broken the nerves and arteries may be damaged, with disastrous results for the muscles in the forearm and hand which they are supplying.

Particularly vulnerable is the brachial artery, which can be severed at the time of the injury, or later damaged by the jagged ends of bone fragments before

the fracture has been reduced and fixed. Fractures of the arm can give rise to a particularly disabling complication if the artery goes into prolonged spasm, even though it may have been no more than bruised at the time of fracture. The effects of occlusion of the arterial supply to the muscles, and to the nerves which supply them, vary, but in severe cases the strong muscles of the forearm can become replaced by fibrous tissue; this later contracts, and as it does so distorts and paralyses the finger and wrist joints, to produce a claw-like deformity known as Volkmann's ischaemic contracture. The nerves which run close to the bone are also vulnerable; tearing them can cause other distinctive patterns of weakness.

Wound infection is always dreaded in compound fractures, but is now usually overcome by early surgery and the liberal use of antibiotics. If organisms do become ensconced in bone they are hard to dislodge, and a chronic osteomyelitis with a chronically discharging wound may be the sequel.

Possible later complications include avascular necrosis, in which a piece of the fractured bone is left with an inadequate blood supply, so that it later crumbles; or non-union, in which the bone fragments fail to knit together.

With so many possible complications, any of which could have ended the Prince's polo-playing days, the surprise is not that he spent three nights in hospital, but that he was out so soon. It says much for his determination, and for the surgeon's skill.

Pathology of the sausage

There is some good news for supporters of the English sausage who were dismayed by reports last week that the European Community considered it quite as unattractive, and just about as dangerous, as English football fans.

Dr Andrew Boon, at present a lecturer in pathology at Birmingham University, is a man who enjoys nothing more than sausages for breakfast, but had recently been concerned in case they contained BSE-carrying brain or spinal cord tissue. He determined to apply a pathologist's skills to analyse three samples of sausage, two bought from supermarket chains, one from his local butcher. He subjected them to the same histomorphometric and immunohistochemical studies that he would have applied if they had been specimens not from the grocers, but from the operating theatre or any post mortem material which had been sent for analysis. Glial fibrillary acidic protein, a reliable marker for cells from the central nervous system, was

absent from all the pathologist's sausages, showing that they contained no brains from young stock under six months, and hence exempt from the regulations, nor meat which had been contaminated in the abattoir.

The Lancet, commenting on Dr Boon's research, which had been originally reported in the *Journal of Clinical Pathology*, suggested that although sausage gourmands may be reassured about BSE, they should still beware, as all Dr Boon's sausages contained a much higher proportion of fat than is generally

realised. Dr Boon, who is moving to St James's Hospital, Leeds, says that when he has settled in he may find time from his studies on cervical cancer to investigate sausages further, for there are other tests which would show if any of the cattle's reticuloendothelial system, the other tissue favoured by the BSE infective agent, is in the sausage.

"Before the BSE scare I have found pieces of meat in my sausages which look suspiciously like spleen," he says. "It would be nice to know that it is no longer included."

Fish fingers

A few years ago no trendy health centre was complete without a fish tank designed to amuse bored children and soothe the nerves of anxious adults. Little did the patients realise that the staff who tended the fish risked a rare, but very unpleasant, skin disease — fish tank granuloma.

A recent report in the *BMJ* by four Bristol doctors warns that fish fanciers risk catching fish tuberculosis. In the fish the

organism, *Mycobacterium marinum*, causes a prolonged wasting disease and death; in the humans who handle the diseased fish, dip their hands in water in which they have been swimming, or even clean out the tanks, the disease may manifest itself rather less dramatically as a chronic pustulous sore on the hands or fingers. These sores may last many months, be multiple, and can penetrate the tendon sheaths to cause tenosynovitis. Treatment is with Septrin (minocycline), or anti-tuberculosis drugs. Prevention can be achieved by wearing rubber gloves.

Compared with other fruits, such as apples, oranges or pears, bananas are easy to chew, easy to digest — they lie less heavily on the stomach but give you the impression of being full — they taste pleasant and they are hermetically sealed.

Dr Lawrence Swan, the marketing director of Fyffes, could scarcely believe his luck when he heard the news from Wimbledon. At his office in Dublin, he said: "Some companies spend thousands of pounds to get the stars to endorse their products and we are getting it all free — but that is

Is the banana the fruit of victory?

Martina Navratilova is said to swear by them and other stars are banana binging, but do they really put zip into sport?

Heather Kirby
investigates

Wimbledon's tennis stars are going bananas over bananas. They already know that the tropical fruits give them instant energy, but the rumour that Martina Navratilova tucks into quantities of them before she goes on court is enough endorsement to make bananas this year's secret weapon. Every day, 70lb of bananas are delivered to the competitors' restaurant — about 300 individual fruit. The attraction is the high sugar content, which varies with the ripeness of the banana. A green fruit will have only half the sugar of a really ripe one, (10g per 100g, compared with 20g). As well as being high in simple sugar, bananas contain complex sugars, which produce a naturally delayed release mechanism, making them particularly useful for athletes who need energy over a long period. Cyclists have been addicted to them for years.

An unpeeled banana weighing 100g is made up of 79 calories, 19g carbohydrate, 3.4g fibre, 1g protein, 0.3g fat, 350mg potassium, 200mg carotene and a trace of vitamin A. The carbohydrate, in the form of sucrose (ordinary sugar), is converted to glucose and absorbed. According to Dr David Conning, the director general of the British Nutrition Foundation, the energy supply from a glucose drink would be absorbed in about 20 to 30 minutes, whereas that from the banana would take 45 to 60 minutes.

Compared with other fruits, such as apples, oranges or pears, bananas are easy to chew, easy to digest — they lie less heavily on the stomach but give you the impression of being full — they taste pleasant and they are hermetically sealed.

Also, bananas have a very high potassium level, three times as high as any other fruit. We need a salt balance in our bodies and although we come across a lot of sources of sodium salt, in everyday cooking for instance, potassium salt is a little more rare. Bananas are often prescribed for nervous disorders, for people with high blood pressure and for older people because the potassium content is good for them.

Pop stars appear to share with athletes a conviction that one particular food is going to hype their performance. Cliff Richard is said to have sworn by ginseng for years and, considering his boyish looks, you could argue that it works. Madonna is said to eat a lot of avocados.

The idea that you can eat your way to victory was popularised by Dr Robert Haas, a clinical nutritionist and athlete whose advice helped bring Ms Navratilova to peak performance in 1982. In his book *Eat To Win*, published by Viking in Britain in 1985, he argued that the traditional "balanced" diet contained too much protein and far too little carbohydrate for athletes and other sportsmen.

In Britain, research into the effects of diet on performance is being carried out at Loughborough University. Professor Clyde Williams says there is clear evidence of a link between the two. "The strongest link is between the carbohydrate content of a diet and endurance performance, such as marathon running or hill walking.

The Committee on Medical



Banana drama: a scene from the Carmen Miranda film *The Girls He Left Behind*, in 1943.

Aspects of Food (COMA) recommendations for a healthy diet for the population as a whole are based on 50 per cent carbohydrate, 35 per cent fat and 15 per cent protein. For anyone training for competition, I would suggest that should be 55 per cent carbohydrate, 30 per cent fat and 15 per cent protein. Just before competition you would change that to 70 per cent carbohydrate and reduce the protein. In fact, if you decrease your protein intake the carbohydrate intake usually takes care of itself because you feel hungry.

The professor says that this advice holds good for anyone contemplating any form of physical activity — even a heavy bout of gardening or DIY. What about the sedentary types who take little exercise of any kind? Are there any foods to keep them fit? "If you are not doing anything at all, I suggest you follow the COMA guidelines — but reduce your total intake of food altogether."

Next month a team of psychologists at the Institute of Food Research at Reading will begin work on the effects of food on mood and emotion. "What we are going to try to do with the mood food project is to take out the expectation effect and try to look for the true effects," says Dr Dick Shepherd. "Under controlled conditions we are going to see if we can get differences in moods and cognitive performance. You get a strong effect from a placebo; if people believe something is going to be good for them, they will make it good. If people happen to win a competition and think the reason is because they have eaten a banana, no way will they then try to win without eating one. Even if they lose, they will not blame the banana."

Board of practitioners

Next week, at Tavua in Fiji, a group of doctors with a penchant for surfing will meet for the annual conference of the Surfers Medical Association (SMA). Of 500 members from countries including Chile, France, Australia, South Africa and the United States, the 30 who will spend two weeks at Tavua will divide their time between daytime surfing and evening conference sessions. Subjects scheduled for discussion include skin cancer and first aid for surfers.

The largest contingent of doctors travelling to Fiji for the £500-a-week gathering will be from Australia, the most health-conscious of surfing nations. Among them will be Dr Simon Leslie, aged 38, a casualty and intensive care doctor and the president of the Australian chapter of the SMA, who also runs the first clinic set up specifically for surfers.

The Surf Medicine Clinic opened last October in the coastal town of Wollongong, south of Sydney, at the back of Byrne Brothers' surfboard shop and factory. The idea for the clinic emerged after Dr Leslie met shop owner David Byrne at antenatal classes they attended while their wives were pregnant. "The general idea was to offer a service to people who thought it was too much hassle to go to the doctor," Mr Byrne says. "A lot of people

Australia has the world's first clinic for surfing injuries

used to come into the shop saying they had this or that wrong with them. Now they can just duck in and see Simon."

Noted for their individuality and reluctance to conform, surfers tend not to see eye-to-eye with doctors.

"There is also an ignorance among doctors towards surfers," Dr Leslie admits. "They think surfers are fit by the way they look suntanned and healthy. A result, when surfers do have a problem, they feel ignored."

The surf clinic, held every Thursday afternoon, tempts many otherwise reluctant surfers to see a doctor with injuries that include skin cancer, septic cuts from coral reefs, broken limbs (generally caused by freak waves crashing down on surfers), "surfer's ear" (a growth across the ear canal caused by prolonged periods in the water), and torn ligaments.

Even in the middle of winter, the clinic is busy; last week, six surfers came to Byrne Brothers to see "the Doc". Paul Evert, a railway worker and keen surfer, recovering from a knee operation, sat on the couch as the doctor tested his reflexes. Other patients

included a surfer who broke his neck and is now close to getting back in the water, after only a few months of rehabilitation, and another who came in to pick up a medical kit for a trip to Bali.

"To start with I was seeing a lot of guys with skin cancer," Dr Leslie says. "Now I am giving travel advice to surfers going to places like Indonesia. I have designed a 20-piece medical kit for them to take with them."

Dr Leslie says he is willing to keep the clinic going for as long as patients want to come and see him, and Mr Byrne has set aside the room for as long as Dr Leslie wants it. So far the SMA has not endorsed Dr Leslie's initiative in Wollongong, but he hopes that after this month's conference in Fiji a network of similar surgeries can be opened worldwide.

JEREMY HART

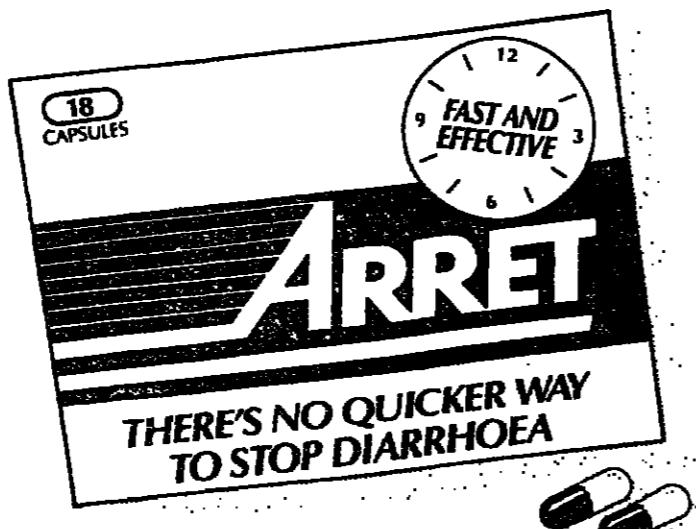
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IF YOU CAN'T TRUST THE FOOD



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ASK YOUR PHARMACIST

Worm's eye view of a famous Victorian amour

Margaret Forster is the author of a first-rate biography of Elizabeth Barrett Browning. The heroine of her new novel is the maid who came to look after the invalid poet two years before her secret marriage to Robert Browning, and who accompanied the eloping pair abroad. It is the story of "Wilson", and everything is seen through her eyes.

Everything that can be known about Wilson comes from Elizabeth Barrett Browning's letters; Forster has filled the story in from her informed imagination. It's a good idea, and the novel is nearly very good, but it's too long, and loses momentum. It has the leisurely pace and the bulk of a Victorian novel, and Margaret Forster's gifts of sharpness get lost in the undergrowth.

Wilson, who comes from Newcastle, is so timid and mouse-like that she keeps her eyes cast down and only understands half of what is going on. Modest and desperate to please, she does everything for her mistress, and soon becomes her pet. The only part of the house in Wimpole Street to come into full focus for her, and therefore for the reader, is Miss Elizabeth's room — curtained against the daylight, cluttered, unbearably overheated, with the suffering creature with great dark

Victoria Glendinning on how they saw the Browning version below stairs

LADY'S MAID
By Margaret Forster
Chatto & Windus, £13.95

eyes on the sofa racked by fits of coughing. Margaret Forster has lived with Elizabeth Barrett longer than she has lived with Wilson, and she evokes the hours spent in that claustrophobic room with mediumistic ease. This is surely how it was.

Even though a voice for Wilson is conjured up by having her write long letters, she is never so alive to the reader as is her mistress. The long early section becomes very nearly as boring as the sickroom routine. All dramatic incidents — the time Flora was stolen by dog-snatchers, or Mr Browning's long-anticipated first visit — are passed over in a few desultory phrases, as if the author was unwilling, yet, to change the tempo.

With the Browning's marriage and elopement, Wilson comes

into her own. None of it could have happened without her organisation. The hours of sitting at the bedside have changed her. She has developed a taste for the speculative conversations into which her mistress draws her, and a dependence on her special, confidential position in the marriage. The dependence seems mutual. It is Wilson who sees Mrs Browning through her ghastly miscarriages and the birth of Pen. The bloody bedclothes and the servant's-eye view of marital intimacies make the novel not one for the squeamish, but it is material that Forster handles confidently. There are wonderful details — as Wilson catching Mr Browning, whose devotion to his wife is never questioned, staring out of the window at the Casa Guidi with a look of utter boredom on his face. For all relationships are double-edged.

The best thing in the book, and the whole point of it, is Wilson's gradual realisation that the servant-mistress relationship is unfairly weighted. She ends up being betrothed to Pen and maid to Mrs Browning. The Brownings pay her less than other lady's maids get, though she does so much more. When she brings up the subject of wages, Mrs Browning's caressing, intimate manner changes. She and her husband, cuddling on the sofa,



Margaret Forster losing her sharpness and immediacy in the lush undergrowth of a famous Victorian hothouse

are shocked and incredulous — does Wilson not realise that she is a member of their family, a friend rather than a servant? When they give her a rare holiday, they assume that she will take Pen with her; this is presented as a privilege, but Wilson sees through the hypocrisy. What Mrs Browning cannot tolerate is inconvenience. Wilson is, whatever they say, a

servant. Her own needs must never impinge on theirs. It is all right when she marries the handsome Italian manservant; Ferdinand too becomes one of the family. But her pregnancy is seen as a betrayal, and her beloved first baby has to be left with her sister in England. Mr Browning knows this is hard for her: "But you could not in all honesty,

not for her sake but to secure asylum and a keeper for their aged, crazy friend, the poet Landor. Yet after Mrs Browning's death the last thing Wilson wanted to do was "to examine the reality of her idolatry and discover she had wasted the best part of her life on it". Devotion is a trap, and like other virtues must be its own reward. Food for thought here.

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The real world always seems a bit drab after a Ronald Frame novel. His characters parade in pre-war leopardskin-and-wool coats and fuchsia velvet toques through scenes furnished with leather upholstery, velvet drapes, stained glass lampshades, oversize chandeliers, and lacquer cabinets. His settings — London, Surrey, Cumberland, Atlantic City, Australia, Hollywood — are recognisable through a cluster of topographic and architectural detail. Even his prose comes decked out in metaphoric finery.

In *Bluestock*, his latest long catalogue of exotica, it is as if the collective effects of the Victoria & Albert Museum have come to life in a treasure hunt of a narrative. The main showcase belongs to Catherine Hammond, born in *Aquae Regis* (Bath) in 1931, the only daughter of a mysterious marriage between a tight-lipped ironware manufacturer and a laughing actress. We first see her flying to Arabia on the nursery Turkey rug, and later acting her part in the adult fairytale of Fifties London. Her life is shaped by an obsessive search for Maurice (cad? gold-digger? something worse?), the father of her illegitimate child.

This quest takes her from spartan gentility to Hollywood glitz — via Soho's Bluebird nightclub, a cathedral close in the Shires, northern repertoire digs, a discreet brothel in a Surrey backwater, a Mayfair modelling agency, a political marriage in Kensington, Wednesdays of sex in the Savoy, New York's Washington Square, and Atlantic City's windswept piers — but she never quite leaves

Life seen as just a display cabinet

Sally Edworthy

BLUETTE
By Ronald Frame
Hodder & Stoughton, £14.95

CAN'T QUIT YOU, BABY
By Ellen Douglas
Virago, £12.95

LOVE AND DEATH ON LONG ISLAND
By Gilbert Adair
Heinemann, £10.95

her museum confines. Each phase in her life is set up in an exhibition-room scenario, complete with period trappings.

Ronald Frame, however, is no authorial taxidermist. His story teems with comic-strip action: murder, madness, pools of blood, ghosts, incest, sightings, and much more sex than in his previous fiction. But, like the eponymous heroine of *Penelope's Hat*, his last novel, who remains elusive beneath a procession of millinery, Catherine — both clothes-horse and plot-horse — is kept at a remove, on display as it were, behind the glass of distancing, deflecting prose.

That is Frame's joke. All potential criticisms turn out to be the novel's themes. Catherine, through all her myriad identities, remains a mere silhouette — but aren't all humans in the dark about one another? The exhaustive action is more pantomime than real life — but then what is life, if not a play? One is

Story-spinning is also at the heart of Ellen Douglas's *Can't Quit You, Baby*, but it is the kind that does give full play to passion. Set in the Deep South, heavy with memories of slavery and civil war, this is the parallel tale of Cornelie — rich, white, and well-ordered — and Tweet, her black servant, who has faced violence and death at every turn. Together they work companionably in Cornelie's kitchen, rolling pastry, peeling figs, arranging flowers, while Tweet tells stories of her past.

But her potent tales fall on deaf ears. Cornelie is deaf in serenity and physically so, switched off to the world with an adjustable hearing aid. When things happen to jolt her — a son's unsuitable

marriage, her husband's death — she goes mad, and wakes up wanting to hear Tweet's tales of havoc and courage.

Too late, though. Tweet herself has fallen ill, her mind beyond the reach of speech. The resolution of this alternately harrowing and heartening story comes through song. As a refrain for black/white friendship, Tweet's line is "I love you, darlin', but I hate your treacherous lowdown ways"; as a tune for the two women as two wives, her theme is "I can't quit you, baby, but I got to put you down a little while" — but it is never as kitch as that sounds.

The publication of *Love and Death on Long Island* during Wimbledon and World Cup week is a timely warning against hero-worship. A reclusive pedant in his mid-fifties walks into the wrong film by chance, *Hopscotch College II*, and walks out harbouring desires for a teen actor called Ronnie Bostock. The idea of a man in NW3 who thinks of Latin rather than celluloid at the sight of the word video is a nice one, but there is nothing nice in what follows. This same man, whose own novels are called things like *The Gentrification of the Void*, becomes addicted to teen magazines for articles on his pin-up — 20 Facts Ya Didn't Know About Him! — and almost to pornography. Gilbert Adair, not afraid of "untouchable" subjects (his last novel dealt with incest), has woven a tale about gripping obsession. Possibly it is a satire on latent homosexuality in the English novel; whatever, it leaves one decidedly queasy.

Professional foul most foul

PAPERBACKS
Woodrow Wyatt

THE WORLD CUP MURDER
By Pete
with Herbert Resnicow
No Exit Press, £3.99

WORK FOR A MILLION
By Eve Zaremba
Virago Crime, £4.99

THE MIDNIGHT CLUB
By James Patterson
Arrow Crime, £3.99

and psychopathic murder are the theme of *The Midnight Club*. There is so much of it that at first I thought I would be put off, but I became charmed by the smooth writing and excellent construction. Again a central figure, this time a New York police lieutenant, is crippled not once but twice. The villain, nicknamed the Grave Dancer, is organiser of a giant drug and assorted crime syndicate. He is a king of the underworld, while seeming civilised, respectable, and agreeable to an upper world of business and society. After arranging to have Lieutenant Stefanovich almost murdered, he calls on his wife. Answering the bell she says, "Something happened to Stel?" "Yes, and now something is happening to you." A moment later she was dead from a muffled shotgun blast.

Back with the force, the lieutenant, his legs crippled, sets out in his wheelchair to get the Grave Dancer. The book never drops in any sense, though it is hard to believe that the main characters could sustain such hectic times, brutal treatment, and frequent near-deaths without blacking out completely, instead of merely quite often.

Waspish Yankee studies

Nicola Murphy

FELLOW PASSENGERS
By Louis Auchincloss
Constable, £11.95

Louis Auchincloss's *Fellow Passengers* travel first class. All are members of the classic club and the clubbier class straight out of New York society's top drawer. This is not a block-busting, earth-moving, bond-breaking, X-rated tale of sex 'n' drugs 'n' business coups. It is a series of low-key, prose studies of the social milieu that surrounds the author himself: discreet, old-money New England patrician families and their court of artists, lawyers, and confidants.

Auchincloss delineates the secrets, foibles, and ironies that lie just below the surface of genteel society. Instead of a conventional story, he gives us an exploration in each of these portraits of the inner motivation of great old men and good old maids, of the high priests and priestesses of the cultural and financial establishment; of the aspires hoping to join the charmed inner circle, the bridge parties full of suits and no trumps.

The individual short stories become a novel by the rather tenuous linking presence of the narrator, Dan Ruggles as a child, as a student at Yale, at University of Virginia law school, and finally as a moderately successful writer and professional lawyer on Wall Street. Each story is a learning experience for Don himself. Each follows a pattern — the narrator's initial misreading of character, telegraphing an inevitable re-evaluation by both narrator and reader of the author's heroes.

Unfortunately Louis Auchincloss, graduate of Yale and of the University of Virginia law school, Wall Street lawyer and author of more than 40 books, is unconvincing when he feeds Dan a cheap gibe or self-important gesture in order to make the insight more telling, the journey more evident. Any writer whose fiction is so close to autobiography ought to be able to ensure that, at the very least, the central figure is credible. Dan, like his fellow passengers, is too often a puppet on the New York stage acting out his master's wise but all too overt parables.

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Graham Lord, *Sunday Express*

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Rose Tremain, *The Listener*

Hodder & Stoughton Publishers £12.95

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MUSEUMS

When brass reaps its rewards

David Trippier, the heritage minister, yesterday presented the 18th National Heritage Museum of the Year Award to joint winners. Simon Tait reports

The prize for the National Heritage Museum of the Year, a modest £2,000, will do little to change the lives of this year's two winners, the Imperial War Museum and the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester. The kudos, however, is much greater and the 1990 title-holders find a value in the award which was not in the thoughts of Abbot Hall in Kendal, the first winner in 1973.

"It reinforces the interest of our sponsors and confirms their confidence in us," says Dr Patrick Greene, director of the Manchester museum since its 1983 opening.

Greene has raised about £3 million in sponsorship to bring the huge site of the oldest railway station in the world at Castletown to the state where, as the competition judges reported, "it includes enough sections to constitute almost a dozen separate museums".

The name, Museum of Science and Industry, is misleading; it has a vast social element. Tagging on to a school tour of the "Underground Manchester" element, which looks at the appalling sanitary conditions when cholera and typhoid were rife and how the city invented itself out of them, I heard the teacher ask what "contaminated" means. "It means mucky, miss," came the answer.

Where there's muck there's brass. But Manchester is mucky no longer, and beside the museum stands a plaque, courtesy of the Manchester Development Corporation, which invites potential developers to build around the museum: they had better bring

their brass quickly because the once industrial desert is rising almost daily.

Greene has kept up a momentum of one new development a year. Later this month, an astronaut and a cosmonaut will open the new "Out of this World" permanent exhibition (their air fares and hotels paid for by Manchester sponsors). His next project is "The Planet", rebuilding Robert Stevenson's 1830s locomotive, for which the British Engine insurance company has provided half of the £60,000 costs.

Then he has to find £3.5 million to restore the 1830s railway warehouse, the oldest in the world, to house his massive information technology exhibition.

Greene expects 300,000 visitors this year, 40 per cent of them children. Many will come for the "Xperiment" hands-on science gallery, opened two years ago, which has won the museum a special BP prize for initiative.

Alan Borg has been head of the Imperial War Museum in London for about as long as Greene has been at Manchester. His task was greater than starting from scratch: he had to make an unattractive, outmoded collection with an arachnid name into one worthy of the accolade "Museum of the Year". He succeeded on the basis of a slogan ("Part of your family's history") and an effective fund-raising campaign.

The first £23-million phase of the refurbishment of the old building, once the Bedlam lunatic asylum, was opened by the Queen a year ago, with two-thirds more space, a majestic central hall, an art gallery praised by critics and a



Alan Borg, Director of the Imperial War Museum, in the newly-added trench: "It's a relief to have both world wars done now."

recreation of a London street destroyed in the Blitz.

"The key element was simply to make people come, and the way to do it was to relate the material to them personally," says Dr Borg. "War is essentially about people." The central feature of his new first world war galleries, the trench, is not a military motif but a social one: you see Tommy writing home to his dad, the corporal trying to cheer up a rookie, the infantry officer in his homburg dugout telephoning convoluted instructions to the Royal Artillery, the squad trying not to panic as

they wait to go over the top.

"The museum is refreshing," said the judges, "in that it avoids the glorifications of war, has due mention of concentration camps and atrocities – and, most surprising, has a sculpture of a woman's body burnt by radiation in the main displays, not tucked away in the art galleries."

The urban Dr Borg is sanguine about the sponsorship battle. "It is part of being a director now. If I'd wanted to be an academic curator I wouldn't have applied for this job. It's a relief to have both world

wars done now, but there's still a long way to go."

He has to find another £20 million for phase two, to be completed, he hopes, by the 50th anniversary of the end of the second world war. "The brief is to record 20th-century conflicts in which British or Commonwealth personnel have been involved, and since there is no conflict in which British or Commonwealth journalists, for instance, have not been involved since 1945, it leaves a wide scope." He wants to address the subject of terrorism, as well as tackle the problems of staff

accommodation, find more gallery space for art and create an education centre and temporary exhibition space.

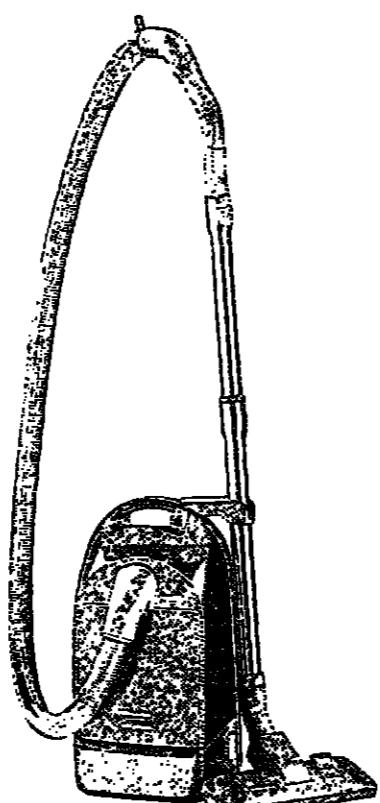
The staff space problem has been solved by a "bequest" from the Property Services Agency of the nearby All Saints Hospital, once a psychiatric hospital and now the home of departments such as conservation and the archives. "It makes me the only museum director in charge of two former lunatic asylums. Funny thing, war."

Leading article, page 13



Back in favour with the critics: Noddy and Big-Ears go paddling at a non-sexist, non-racist beach

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ANYTHING ELSE IS A COMPROMISE

Purged of prejudice, a Noddy for our times

Joseph Connolly finds that an early hero of the toddling classes is preparing to make a comeback in the publishing world

The year was 1949. "Big-Ears the Brownie" was hurrying through the woods on his little red bicycle, when he suddenly bumped into somebody. That somebody was a stark-naked wooden doll (whom Big-Ears subsequently furnished with a name and a wardrobe) and so began Enid Blyton's best-known saga, that spanned 24 books over 15 years.

This autumn, the publisher, Macdonald, is putting £50,000 behind promoting a new edition of *Noddy* with re-organized illustrations which, along with the text, have been "updated to reflect the tastes of a modern readership". All this means is that the critics who have vilified Blyton over the decades, accusing her of racism and sexism, are finally to be appealed (the "readership" itself never voiced a complaint).

When *Noddy Goes to Toyland* made its debut 40 years ago, Enid Blyton, at 52, was quite simply the most prolific and successful children's writer ever. She had already published well over 300 books (the final tally at her death in 1968 amounted to twice this) and such series as *Mallory Towers*, *St Clare's*, *The Famous Five* and *The Secret Seven* had made her hugely popular with children and parents alike.

The Noddy books represented her first attempt at writing for a younger audience, and they proved instantly successful – not least with the concession merchants who, within two years, had Noddy and Big-Ears on everything from toothpaste to tableware. The visual appeal of the books, indeed, has often been put forward as the primary attraction. This is a reasonable assertion – it was the sight of the highly-coloured and stylised artwork of a Dutchman called Harmen Van Der Beek that inspired Blyton to create

Noddy in the first place. (Beck illustrated the first seven books in three years, along with hundreds of Noddy strips for the *Evening Standard*, before he died in 1953.)

Throughout the 1950s, Blyton could do no wrong – each Noddy book outsold the last, and his hold on children remained as strong as that of his television rivals, *Andy Pandy* and *The Flowerpot Men*. Only towards the end of the decade and into the Sixties did rumblings of criticism begin, these soon rising to a deafening denunciation of Blyton and all her works on grounds of racism, sexism and snobbery (some also suggested that the books were too middle-class and not very well written).

Of course Noddy could be an insufferable fellow with his obsession for sixpences and his parading car, and it is true that gollywogs were quite often depicted as being rather naughty (as were monkeys and teddy bears) and that it was the girl who always made the sandwiches – but did all this amount to criminal charges? Apparently so – although the much-publicised banning of *Noddy* from many public libraries has been overstated (they simply did not replace copies that had been read and loved to pieces, much to the bewilderment of their subscribers). Many bookshops, however, refused to stock the titles, and a Noddy book in a middle-class home was soon frowned upon.

Caroline Bishop of Macdonald, which is planning a print-run of 50,000 copies for each of the Noddy titles, says the publishers have attacked racism and sexism "in a big way. For instance, all the gollywogs have gone now. Mr Garage Golly has become Mr Sparks, a caucasian." What about the three gollies who mug Noddy and steal his car and his clothes? "We thought hard about that: they

are now goblins, who everyone knows are horrid," she says. "Also, in the illustrations, a computer has taken out a lot of the blonde dolls and a new illustrator has put in a more multi-racial mix.

Black, yes – but not gollies. As to sexism, a little girl would have said, "I'm frightened, will you look after me?" Whereas now she'll say, "I'm not frightened but I know you'll look after me anyway." We take the criticisms very seriously."

The trouble is, the criticisms no longer seem to exist. Gill Moore, editor of *Child Education*, says: "I don't particularly like the Noddy books, but they do no lasting harm; in fact, they do quite a lot of good if they get children reading."

Brough Girling, head of the Children's Book Foundation, believes that a lot of the sexist and racist attitudes wash over children's heads, although he too does not warm to the tone of the books. "Of course they do no harm – children can handle it all. I liked the stuff in the Fifties. I think we all did, and anything that gets kids reading ..."

Liz Gee, owner of The Children's Book Centre in Kensington, agrees: "They bring children to books, that's the point, I think Noddy is quite nice – I tend to recommend him. I sell a lot to Indian people and Arabs – he's very big in Kuwait."

And not just in Kuwait. The books have been translated into dozens of languages, among them French (where Noddy is known as Oui Oui), Catalan (Noddy) and Icelandic (Dodd). Worldwide sales now approach 75 million. Only Britain seems to have reservations in the past, but now we seem to be taking Enid Blyton's own view: "I never listen to any critic over the age of 12," she once said. Welcome back, Little Noddy – all seems to be forgiven at last.

TELEVISION

A candle for caring and cure

THOUGH shamefully under-promoted and therefore oddly under-reviewed elsewhere, Jonathan Stedall's *Candle on the Hill* series – three new BBC 2 documentaries from Bristol on the Camp Hill Movement – has been a sharp and splendid reminder of television features at their best. Stedall is one of the producers-writers for whom the BBC might have been built. More than 20 years ago, he first began filming at a community in Scotland, founded by Austrian refugees in 1940 for revolutionary treatment of the mentally ill.

Inspired by Rudolf Steiner, the Camp Hill Project took faith as its root – the idea that children with different handicaps could help one another, guided by a staff of co-workers who live communally and without wages. To some extent this could be regarded as a Gordonstoun type of project: tough, resilient, outdoor self-help from a middle-European tradition imported into the British countryside by devout idealists.

But having made his first films there in the late Sixties, Stedall returned to Camp Hill to mark its 50th anniversary by looking at the way the movement has grown to encompass centres in Switzerland, Germany and America. All of them assume that the handicapped have as much to teach each other and us as we have to teach them. Underlying these new films, though, have been doubts about the current fashion for "normalisation", and the realisation that real integration with the mentally ill can only happen when the outside world is prepared to accept them on terms of social equality. "The candle on the hill" as Camp Hill's founder first called his project, is still slight but flickering in the winds of thoughtless economic rationalisation.

In what could uncharitably be considered a pre-emptive bid for political popularity, the BBC has issued its guidelines to interviewers on how not to be jolly nice to bossy people who might find themselves in charge of its future economic health. Sadly, they have not seen fit to issue guidelines to arts interviewers on how not to be trendy, smug, pseudish or incomprehensible, as in the chattering *Late Show*.

Happily, however, an American ex-White House journalist called Bill Moyers has been selling off some old interview tapes to BBC 2 which have been lessons in intelligent arts-oriented conversations of a kind for which, over here, you have to time to Radio 3's *Third Ear*. Last night, Moyers was talking to David Puttnam, not about any specific new movie release or even about his Colombia resignation speech, which must by now be as famous as General MacArthur's departing words from the American army.

Instead, Moyers and Puttnam were looking at the moral responsibilities of Hollywood, with Puttnam convinced that middle-American virtues have been traduced and betrayed by producers on the west and east coasts. Moyers remained uneasily suspicious that even *Rambo* might have done some good for individuality and self-reliance.

Interrupted by no clips, informed by no currently fashionable urban ethic, this was simply a discussion of accountability in cinema. It was underlined by Puttnam's childhood memories of what American movies once tried to be about, and Moyers' uneasy admittance that they have failed to recapture the high moral debating ground. Best of all was the moment in the conversation when Moyers suddenly realised that the Oliver North Senate hearings were in fact *Mr Smith Goes to Washington*, except that Mr. Smith has now become a patriotic crook instead of a backwoods idealist.

Although we still smugly tell ourselves that we do the best television arts programming in the world, you would be hard-pressed to find this conversation on any current British TV channel except as an import, such was its uninterrupted length, literacy and unconcern for currently adored production values. All signs of any producer at work on this conversation were mercifully absent, and Mr Moyers is his own editor.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

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TELEVISION & RADIO

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6.00 Ceefax
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Laurie Mayer and Fiona Foster 8.35 Regional news and weather
9.00 News and weather followed by *The Hostel*. The first of a two-part documentary about the return visit of a group of 15 Jewish people to an old house in Bradford where they were sent as children to escape Nazi persecution in the late 1930s (r)
9.35 *Look, Stranger*. The story of Arthur May who looked after Duck Island in London's St James's Park (r)
10.00 News and weather followed by *The Hall Spenser Show* 10.25 Playdays 10.50 *Rupert the Bear* (r)
10.55 Five to Eleven. Gary Wilson reads poems and letters by Gerard Manley Hopkins
11.00 News and weather followed by Hudson and Halls. The two camp cooks are joined by Christopher Biggins (r). Wales: 11.00-12.00 Langollen 9.10-11.30 *Boswell's Wildlife Safari* to Mexico. The wildlife of a 1,000-yard long sand spit in the Gulf of Mexico (r) 11.55 *The Historyman* visits Mountfitchet Castle (r)
12.00 News and weather followed by Dallas (r). (Ceefax) 12.50 *Reaving Amiques*. How to remove chewing gum from a rug. (Ceefax) 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather 1.30 *Neighbours*. (Ceefax)

BBC 2

6.45 Open University: Social Integration — Family Comedy. Ends at 7.10
8.00 News 8.15 Westminster
9.00 Wimbledon '90. Highlights of the men's quarter-finals
10.00 *Christian Life and Death in Ancient Egypt*. In 1992, an Egyptian mummy was discovered at the Manchester Museum, revealing new information about death, and life in ancient Egypt (r)



Graham Gooch: first day's play (10.50am)
10.50 Cricket: Third Test. Live coverage of the first day's play in the decisive game at Edgbaston between England and New Zealand, introduced by Tony Lewis
1.05 In the Garden. Gardening tips for July from the experts. Household and garden waste can be easily recycled for use as compost in the garden 1.20 Mr Benn narrated by Ray Brooks
1.35 Cricket: Third Test and Wimbledon '90. Further coverage of the match between England and New Zealand at Edgbaston. Coverage of the Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon also continues, with the women's semi-finals being played today. Includes news at 2.00. Wales: 2.00-3.00 Langollen 9.00

1.50 Wimbledon '90. It is women's semi-final day. Steffi Graf, aiming for her third consecutive title, faces the Texan Zina Garrison who ended Monica Seles's 36-match unbeaten run on Tuesday. Martina Navratilova meets the grunting Sabatini, who had a struggle in the last round against the Russian Natasha Zvereva
4.10 The All New Popeye Show. Cartoon fun with the lovable sailor whose love of spinach always saves him in the nick of time. 4.35 Around the World with Willy Fog. Cartoon based on the Jules Verne novel (r)
5.00 Newsround. News magazine programme specially devised for younger viewers 5.10 *Move It, Fun*, with a sporty start, for younger viewers. This week's programme has tips on radio-controlled glider control and tennis with the Indian Virendra Amritraj. There is also a look at wallball, a new sport involving a spongy ball, and at how the Blessed Edward Olicombe School in Worcester are building a hoovercraft. Presented by Scott Birch and Jenny Powell. (Ceefax)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax). Northern Ireland: Sportswide 5.40 Inside Ulster 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anne Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather 6.30 Regional News Magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours 7.00 Top of the Pops introduced by Nicky Campbell. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 1 7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax)
8.00 Life on One. This week Sarah Greene and Simon Mayo will be

3.00 News and weather followed by Westminster Live. Includes Prime Minister's Question Time 3.50 News, regional news and weather

4.00 Cricket and Wimbledon. Further coverage from Edgbaston and London, SW19
8.00 City Lights. Comedy series starring Gerard Kelly as a bank clerk who dreams of literary fame. Tonight a romantic novelist comes to town and Willa hopes that he will be able to pick some important writing tips from her. But what does she want from him in return? (r). (Ceefax). Wales: Gardening Together

8.30 On the Line. The piffling sports magazine which takes up issues away from the field of play. The Henley Regatta is always a certain moneyspinner, but the money is not necessarily reinvested in the sport. Many believe that the shortage of capital going into rowing could be damaging. Plus how pregnancy has helped to improve the performance of leading sportswomen

9.00 The Travel Show. Turkey is the key place this week, with John Thirlwall travelling to Fethiye and revealing the drawbacks as well as the plus points. The UK Mini-Guide comes from east Kent, looking at the white cliffs of Dover, Walmer Castle, the Tides Leisure Centre and Sandwich

9.30 Under the Sun: Matchmaker, Matchmaker.

● Such is the shortage of young women in rural Japan that bachelors in search of a wife are prepared to fly 1,000 miles to the Philippines to find one. In Manila a matchmaker brings together lonely Japanese farmers and young Filipino women looking for a husband and a better way of life. It may be only another form of arranged marriage, a custom not unknown in Japan, but the cultural barriers are forbidding. To help ease them, prospective brides undergo a two-

month training course in Japanese language, etiquette and customs, including the instruction to take off their clothes off when they take a bath. It seems, too, that Japanese society still has a much stronger element of male chauvinism than the women are used to at home. Not surprisingly some of the marriages soon fail. David Jones's film follows two farmers from Okura as they set out for their blind dates with attractive would-be brides called Maribeth and Juliet. (Ceefax)

10.20 10 x 10: Looking Up. ● The latest exercise in television in miniature is a rock musical devised and performed by two dozen teenagers from schools in London and the west country. Their subject is parents and their lively, colourful and unpretentious 10-minute show contains many affectionately delivered home truths which will be recognised on both sides of the generation gap. They will be immediately familiar to youngsters scolded for being home late and anxious mums wondering whether on earth their offspring have been and what they have been getting up to. They will be recognised by parents who have picked up the bill for interminable telephone calls and uncomplainingly provided the best free taxi service in town. Yet again the series has demonstrated that much can packed in a small space, given a bit of imagination. The project was thought up by Cathi Beloe, a BBC production assistant and a parent, and it marks her debut as a director

10.30 Newsnight includes Charles Wheeler reporting on the Nato summit in London
11.15 Cricket: Third Test. Highlights of the first day's play between England and New Zealand at Edgbaston, introduced by Richie Beaudouin
11.55 Weather
12.00 Open University: Weekend Outlook 12.05am Shetland: Watts in the Wind. Ends at 12.35

reporting live from a north London supermarket, looking at the sort of choice available to shoppers and asking whether food labelling and packaging helps or hinders consumer choice. There is also an update on last week's story about the strangled of dolphins with a live link from The Netherlands on the latest news from the International Whaling Commission

8.30 Waiting for God. Graham Crowden and Stephanie Cole in splendid form in the new off-beat sitcom about the residents of a retirement home who refuse to settle down and grow sensible comfortably. (Cestec). Northern Ireland: The Italian Collection 9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. Weather 9.30 Victoria Wood: We'd Quite Like to Apologise. A series of comedy plays written by and starring the accurately witty Victoria Wood. This week's fun comes from package tours and tedious waiting at airports. (r)
10.00 Today at Wimbledon. Highlights of today's action from Wimbledon, which includes the ladies' semi-finals. Introduced by Henry Carpenter

11.00 Cagney and Lacey: Hooked.

Vague feminist police drama. This week the two women find themselves on opposite sides when Chris's ex-boyfriend is accused of taking drugs from the evidence room (r). Wales: City Lights 11.30-12.00 Naked Video: Northern Ireland: 11.30-12.20am Cagney and Lacey

11.45 Weather

ITV LONDON

6.00 TV-AM
9.25 Chain Letters. Word game 9.55 Thames News and weather
10.00 Out of This World. American comedy series about a teenager with an alien father
10.30 This Morning. Family magazine series presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley
12.05 The Fiddlers. For younger viewers (r) 12.25 Home and Away 12.55 Thames News and weather
1.00 News with John Suchet. Weather 1.20 Daytime Graze: The Green Life Guide. Dilly Barlow and Alastair MacDonald present the environmentally-friendly series 1.50 A Country Practice. Medical drama set in an Australian health clinic
2.20 TV Weekly. Anna Diamond takes a look behind the scenes of ITV's programmes 2.50 Connections. Lateral thinking game show 3.15 News headlines 3.20 Thames News, headlines 3.25 Sons and Daughters. The final episode of the Australian family drama soap

3.55 The Raggy Dolls 4.10 Disney's Duck Tales. Send in the Clones 4.35 Cartoon Time starring Elmer Fudd (r) 4.40 Henry's Leg (r)

5.10 Blockbusters

5.40 News with Fiona Armstrong. Weather

6.00 Home and Away (r)

6.30 Thames News and weather

7.00 Emmerdale. Topical soap set in the rural community of Beckindale, Yorkshire. (Orac)

7.30 Nature Watch: Keepers of the Camargue. The world's most spectacular wetlands — in southern

France — play host to a huge variety of creatures, including black bulls, white horses and pink flamingos. However, they are dependent on their keepers, the insects who inhabit the Camargue

8.00 The Bit: Jumping the Gun. Well acted and realistic police series



Champion: Sir Richard Attenborough (12.30pm)

8.30 This Week: The Last Picture Show

● It used to be said of the Austro-Hungarian empire that its situation was hopeless but not serious. Cynics might think the same about the British film industry, which seems forever on the brink of disaster but somehow manages to come through. This week's report suggests that this time it really is serious. Technicians are being laid off, studios are empty and fewer than 25 British films will be made this year. An Oscar-winning special effects man talks of emigrating, an award-winning cameraman has not worked for a year. Industry champions, such as Julie Christie, Ben Kingsley, David Puttnam and Dickie Attenborough argue

that salvation must lie with government help. This is the cue for *This Week* to hop across to France where the film industry enjoys generous support from the public purse

9.00 L.A. Law: Lie Down and Deliver. Gritty courtroom drama series focusing on a group of American lawyers. (Orac)

10.00 News at Ten with Sandy Gall and Fiona Armstrong 10.30 Thames News and weather

10.35 The City Programme includes an item on the Serpe fiasco and Sir John Harvey-Jones warning that the country is facing 1992 with an industrial "Dad's Army".

11.05 01. Includes reviews of the films *Dick Tracy*, *Tie Me Up*, *Tie Me Down* and *Joe Versus the Volcano*. Plus Antony Sher discussing *Singer*.

11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H. More unbelievable drama from the Wentworth Detention Centre for women.

12.30am A Problem Aired. Dr Berne Rosan and Kay Axline tackle viewers' emotional and personal problems

1.00 Film: Man in the Trunk (1973). Mireille Darc and Michel Constantin star in this humorous drama. A secret agent from Israel plane to smuggle himself out of the French Embassy in Libya by being airifted back home. However, problems arise when airport workers want to strike.

Directed by Georges Lautner.

3.00 The Invisible Man (b/w). Adventures of Peter Brady, a scientist who has the faculty to investigate crimes without being seen.

3.30 Bedrock. Steel Pulse in concert

4.30 America's Top Ten (r)

5.00 ITN Morning News with Phil Roman. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Noah's Ark. The birdlife of Tombo Point in Patagonia (r)

6.20 Business Daily

9.25 The Art of Landscape. Stunning scenes of the natural world set to music

11.00 As It Happens. Innovative series in which a television crew is given a location and told to make a programme

12.00 The Parliament Programme

12.30 Business Daily. Financial and business news service

1.00 Sesame Street. Learning fun for younger viewers

2.00 Time To Talk. Actress Anna Carteret talks about her life, beliefs and career to Lesley Judd

2.30 Film: Down to Earth (1947) starring Rita Hayworth, Lure Parks and Roland Culver. True musical about a muse who comes to Earth to help a producer stage his musical. Remade, with equal banality, as *Xanadu* starring Olivia Newton John. Directed by Alexander Hall

4.20 Peasant's Pea Patch. Animation

4.30 Countdown. Richard Whiteley with another round of the words and numbers quiz

5.00 The Horse in Sport: Polo. The oldest known ball game, is a complicated and often dangerous sport, as the Prince of Wales is painfully aware. Both rider and pony are at risk. Yet the best riders maintain that the thrill of the game overrides the fear of the injury, although the horse has no say in the matter. Those interviewed include Julian Hippoway, the Pieres brothers, Tommy Wayman and Claire Tomlinson (r)

6.00 Things To Come. Includes an item on a plan to use a glorified elevator as a means of getting into space; and there is news from France about the possibility of building a spare-parts man

6.30 Tour de France 1990. Today is a rest day, providing a chance to look back at the highlights of the race so far

7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zineb Badawi

7.50 Comment followed by Weather

8.00 Loads More Muck and Magic. More gardening tips, with the emphasis on the environment. This week's programme highlights four different gardens, each with its own story to tell. (Orac)

8.30 My Two Dads: Artful Dodger.

Disappointing American comedy about two men who are given the responsibility of bringing up a 12-year-old girl.

9.00 Film: Maschenka (1965).

● Vladimir Nabokov's semi-autobiographical novel, adapted by John Mortimer, is set in a shabby Berlin boarding house in the 1920s. The hero is a young Russian exile who has caught the disease of his fellow residents and lives in the past, unable to shake himself into positive action. He dreams of travelling south to a new life in France but the obligations of his old life condemn him to inaction. He is jerked out of this comatoses existence by a photograph of his first love, Maschenka, and suddenly filled with the energy to start life afresh. The director John Goldschmidt, whose other films include *She'll Be Wearing Pink Pyjamas* and the recently premiered *Shooting Stars*, carefully recreates the



First love: Irina Brook as Maschenka (9.00pm)

Berlin background and more than in Nabokov's book the story is rooted in a precise historical context. The lovers are played by Irina Brook (daughter of Peter) and Cary Elwes, with support from British stalwarts Freddie Jones and Michael Gough and the French new wave actor Jean-Claude Braly.

10.55 Faces of War: Vietnam — After the War. Continuing the season of repeated documentaries about the human face of war. The after-effects of the Vietnam conflict do not only haunt those veterans who returned to the United States. The Vietnamese people are still striving to return to normality, but the war is not easily forgotten. Bomb craters scar the landscape, while unexploded bombs and mines still wait to be stepped on. More dangerous is the poison in the blood stream of the people, which causes cancer and deformities in babies. But things are improving, and the Vietnamese people are hopeful of a happier future. Narrated by Eartha Kitt (r)

1.00 Tour de France 1990. See 5.30. Ends at 1.30

ITV 4**ITV VARIATIONS****ANGRIA**

As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 Inner Space 5.10-6.40 Home and Away 6.00 Northern Life 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 7.30-8.00 Sporting Triangles 10.35 Married... with Children 10.45-11.15 The Big Tree 2.15 Video View 2.45 America's Top Ten 3.00 Cup Half of Fame 3.55 Saturday 4.40-5.00 Fifty Years On.

BORDER

As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 The Archers 2.30-3.00 Weather 3.30-4.00 The Big Breakfast 4.30-5.00 Home and Away 4.30-5.00 Saturday 5.30-6.00 Blackouts 7.30-8.00 Sporting Triangles 10.35-11.15 Macbeth 11.20-12.00 Wednesday 12.35-1.15 Film 1.15-2.15 Meow 2.15-3.00 The Big Tree 2.15-3.00 Cup Half of Fame 3.55 Saturday 4.40-5.00 The Invisible Man 4.45-5.00 Joblender.

CENTRAL

As London except: 3.25pm-3.35 The Young Doctors 5.15-6.25 Central News 6.55-7.00 Police 7.30-8.00 Saturday 8.30-9.00 Sunday 9.30-10.00 Monday 10.30-11.00 Tuesday 11.30-12.00 Wednesday 12.



Conservationists were pleased to see a number of human badgers in Westminster yesterday. They consisted of representatives from each of the 48 Wildlife Trusts

throughout the country which together comprise the Royal Society for Nature Conservation, and they had joined forces to lobby the House of Commons (Peter Scott writes). The "badgers" staged the lobby to show their support for a bill sponsored by Labour MP Tony Banks, which is due to go before the House on Friday. The bill aims

to make it illegal for anyone to interfere with a badger set. The Royal Society for Nature Conservation claims there is a strong feeling throughout the coun-

try that there should be proper protection for the badger's home. Mr Banks was there to meet the lobby outside the Commons, his natural habitat, yesterday.

Scargill sought to damage UK trade during pit strike

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

ARTHUR Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, made determined efforts to damage the nation's trading position as he waged his war against the Thatcher government and British Coal on behalf of the National Union of Miners, it emerged yesterday.

The full extent of Mr Scargill's secret deals and his distrust of his own colleagues will dominate the union's conference next week when questions will be asked about what happened to £1 million given by Soviet miners to help striking British miners.

Mr Gavin Lightman, QC, whose inquiry clears Mr Scargill and Mr Peter Heathfield, general secretary, of using money meant for the miners for their own gain, indicates that the president was willing to disrupt the country's energy supplies to achieve victory for his members.

Mr Scargill told Mr Lightman that he pressed

Soviet diplomats to disrupt trade relations between the two countries and tried to persuade the Libyan government to stop supplying oil in order to bring political pressure on the government. One of the mysteries revealed by the report is the extent of Mr Scargill's recollection of account number 111-12-697-151-679 held by the Miners Trade Union International (MTUI) at the Narodny Bank Polsky in Warsaw.

This is the bank account number which Mr Roger Windsor, the NUM's former chief executive, whose allegations led to the inquiry, told the *Daily Mirror* he was asked to give to Colonel Gadaffi.

The MTUI functions were taken over by the International Miners Organisation in 1985. Its general secretary is Alain Simon, an executive committee member of the French Cgd. Its unpaid president is Mr Scargill.

Mr Lightman said the finances of the IMO are "prac-

tically impenetrable".

"Mr Simon wrote to me saying that he had no intention of disclosing to me the accounts on which he is a signatory or the source of the funds of the IMO."

Mr Scargill told Mr Lightman that although Mr Simon had told him the account could be used to receive donations from organisations which wanted to assist the NUM in continuing to function during the strike, he was not aware of any transactions which took place in connection with this account.

Mr Lightman's report states: "However, he gave this account number to Mr John Platts-Mills QC and to Professor Allen of Leeds University, both of whom travelled to a number of countries to try to raise money for the NUM with the intent that they should tell the people they talked to that donations could be made to this account."

It adds: "I have seen two letters from Mr Scargill to Mr

Platts-Mills asking Mr Platts-

Mills to help in an international effort to raise money for the NUM... more importantly, those letters state that the account will only be operated on the instructions of Mr Scargill.

"This would indicate to anyone receiving that letter that even if Mr Scargill was not in fact a signatory, he did control the account."

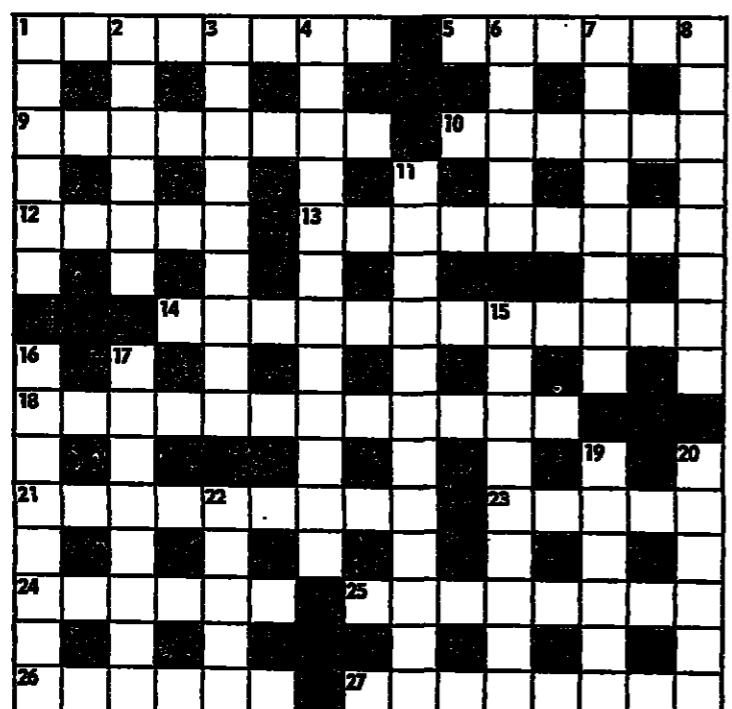
In addition, Mr Platts-Mills has told me that he believes that he, Mr Platts-Mills, gave this account number both to a Soviet official with responsibility for trade union matters and to Colonel Gadaffi."

Professor Allen told Mr Lightman that at the request of Mr Scargill, he visited Moscow, the German Democratic Republic and Budapest to raise funds urgently needed to maintain the fabric of the union.

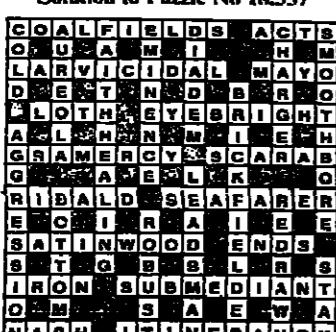
Pit's last chance, page 7

Leading article, page 13

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,338



Solution to Puzzle No 18,337



Concise crossword, page 15

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

SOUTACHE

a. Mutton-chop whiskers
b. A narrow braid
c. A long buttoned gown

RAMPICK

a. A half-dead tree
b. A sheep's crook
c. The Kelso top sales

CORYBANTIC

a. Dancing wildly
b. Living in valleys
c. Argumentative

KOLO

a. A type of computer program
b. A geisha's manager
c. A Serbian dance

Answers on page 20

AA ROADWATCH

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London & SE traffic, roadworks

G. London (within N & S Circs.) 731

M-ways/roads M1-M25 732

M-ways/roads M1-Darlington T... 733

M-ways/roads Darford T-M23 734

M-ways/roads M25-M4 735

M25 London Orbital only 736

National motorways 737

West Country 738

Midlands 740

East Anglia 742

North-west England 742

North-east England 743

Scotland 744

Northern Ireland 745

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AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

*Includes pollen count.

WEATHER

will have persistent rain in the morning, but it will be brighter in the afternoon. There will be gales around the coasts. East Scotland and north-east England will have showers at first, with cloud moving in from the west later. The rest of England and Wales will have a wet morning with gales around coasts in the west and south-west. Outlook: showers and gales at first, dying out later.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: Thunder, d-dizzle, lg-log, s-sun, sl-sleet, sn-snow, fl-flur, c-cloud, r-rain.

PLACES: Majorca 25.79 f, Mallorca 25.79 f, Ibiza 25.79 f, Valencia 25.79 f, Madrid 13.55 f, Mexico City 19.88 f, Atlanta 36.97 f, Milan 25.79 f, Montreal 25.79 f, Moscow 25.79 f, Stockholm 17.63 f, Copenhagen 17.63 f, Paris 11.11 f, Rome 11.11 f, Berlin 25.79 f, Bern 25.79 f, Brussels 25.79 f, Budapest 25.79 f, Cape Town 25.79 f, Copenhagen 25.79 f, Dublin 25.79 f, Edinburgh 25.79 f, Geneva 25.79 f, Helsinki 25.79 f, Istanbul 25.79 f, London 25.79 f, Madrid 25.79 f, Manila 25.79 f, Naples 25.79 f, New York 25.79 f, Oslo 25.79 f, Paris 25.79 f, Rome 25.79 f, Tokyo 25.79 f, Zurich 25.79 f.

PLACES: Majorca 25.79 f, Mallorca 25.79 f, Valencia 25.79 f, Madrid 13.55 f, Mexico City 19.88 f, Atlanta 36.97 f, Milan 25.79 f, Montreal 25.79 f, Moscow 25.79 f, Stockholm 17.63 f, Copenhagen 17.63 f, Paris 11.11 f, Rome 11.11 f, Berlin 25.79 f, Bern 25.79 f, Brussels 25.79 f, Budapest 25.79 f, Cape Town 25.79 f, Copenhagen 25.79 f, Dublin 25.79 f, Edinburgh 25.79 f, Geneva 25.79 f, Helsinki 25.79 f, Istanbul 25.79 f, London 25.79 f, Madrid 25.79 f, Manila 25.79 f, Naples 25.79 f, New York 25.79 f, Oslo 25.79 f, Paris 25.79 f, Rome 25.79 f, Tokyo 25.79 f, Zurich 25.79 f.

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PLACES: Majorca 25.79 f, Mallorca 25.79 f, Valencia 25.79 f, Madrid 13.55 f, Mexico City 19.88 f, Atlanta 36.97 f, Milan 25.79 f, Montreal 25.79 f, Stockholm 17.63 f, Copenhagen 17.63 f, Paris 11.11 f, Rome 11.11 f, Berlin 25.79 f, Bern 25.79 f, Brussels 25.79 f, Budapest 25.79 f, Cape Town 25.79 f, Copenhagen 25.79 f, Dublin 25.79 f, Edinburgh 25.79 f, Geneva 25.79 f, Helsinki 25.79 f, Istanbul 25.79 f, London 25.79 f, Madrid 25.79 f, Manila 25.79 f, Naples 25.79 f, New York 25.79 f, Oslo 25.79 f, Paris 25.79 f, Rome 25.79 f, Tokyo 25.79 f, Zurich 25.79 f.

PLACES: Majorca 25.79 f, Mallorca 25.79 f, Valencia 25.79 f, Madrid 13.55 f, Mexico City 19.88 f, Atlanta 36.97 f, Milan 25.79 f, Montreal 25.79 f, Stockholm 17.63 f, Copenhagen 17.63 f, Paris 11.11 f, Rome 11.11 f, Berlin 25.79 f, Bern 25.79 f, Brussels 25.79 f, Budapest 25.79 f, Cape Town 25.79 f, Copenhagen 25.79 f, Dublin 25.79 f, Edinburgh 25.79 f, Geneva 25.79 f, Helsinki 25.79 f, Istanbul 25.79 f, London 25.79 f, Madrid 25.79 f, Manila 25.79 f, Naples 25.79 f, New York 25.79 f, Oslo 25.79 f, Paris 25.79 f, Rome 25.79 f, Tokyo 25.79 f, Zurich 25.79 f.

PLACES: Majorca 25.79 f, Mallorca 25.79 f, Valencia 25.79 f, Madrid 13.55 f, Mexico City 19.88 f, Atlanta 36.97 f, Milan 25.79 f, Montreal 25.79 f, Stockholm 17.63 f, Copenhagen 17.63 f, Paris 11.11 f, Rome 11.11 f, Berlin 25.79 f, Bern 25.79 f, Brussels 25.79 f, Budapest 25.79 f, Cape Town 25.79 f, Copenhagen 25.79 f, Dublin 25.79 f, Edinburgh 25.79 f, Geneva 25.79 f, Helsinki 25.79 f, Istanbul 25.79 f, London 25.79 f, Madrid 25.79 f, Manila 25.79 f, Naples 25.79 f, New York 25.79 f, Oslo 25.79 f, Paris 25.79 f, Rome 25.79 f, Tokyo 25.79 f, Zurich 25.79 f.

PLACES: Majorca 25.79 f, Mallorca 25.79 f, Valencia 25.79 f, Madrid 13.55 f, Mexico City 19.88 f, Atlanta 36.97 f, Milan 25.79 f, Montreal 25.79 f, Stockholm 17.63 f, Copenhagen 17.63 f, Paris 11.11 f, Rome 11.11 f, Berlin 25.79 f, Bern 25.79 f, Brussels 25.79 f, Budapest 25.79 f, Cape Town 25.79 f, Copenhagen 25.79 f, Dublin 25.79 f, Edinburgh 25.79 f, Geneva 25.79 f, Helsinki 25.79 f, Istanbul 25.79 f, London 25.79 f, Madrid 25.79 f, Manila 25.79 f, Naples 25.79 f, New York 25.7

al sketch

of Scottish
in the air

self-governing status, without significant investment, reducing waiting lists and times."

"Dr Norman Grooman, Labour member for Glasgow, said: "Number four - Dr Godman has almost jumped to the question that mattered. The board was laughing. Mr Forsyth managed a thin smile."

And so it continued. The atmosphere grew more heated. Tommy Graham, Liberal Democrat MP for Inverclyde, the only MP whom Douglas Hogg once accused of "leading with the chin" and who had never heard of a "rigging committee" like the one that had been set up by the Stock Exchange, said: "All right - so there is concern over Scotland. Mr Forsyth's got a massive

It was clear - the session was over - that the question was whether or not Mr Forsyth had done his best. It seemed that he had. He had requested that Mr Forsyth leave, and had done so in progress, but - in charge of the Session Law Reference now massive

But Mr Forsyth was nevertheless reported a "commodore". The government - despite an appeal on the part of the Scottish Nationalists - had now been beaten at a battle which had been fought for months.

Energy analysts say that the find on block 110/13 might contain as much as 1,200 billion cubic feet of recoverable gas, making it one of the most commercially significant fields discovered offshore for several years. The block is close to the Mersey estuary and would be relatively cheap to develop.

Monument Oil & Gas, the British exploration group which has a 25 per cent interest in the block, described the gas accumulation as significant. Further drilling is scheduled this year, it said.

Tempus, page 25

Greene, King up

Greene, King & Sons, the brewer, saw 1990 pre-tax profits rise 5 per cent from £19.2 million to £20.1 million on a £109.2 million (£103.6 million) turnover. But a write-down of its stake in Big R Leisure disappointed the market, and the shares eased 10p to 370p. A final of 6.9p (6.1p) makes 9.8p (8.7p).

Tempus, page 25

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7842 (+0.0062)
W German mark 2.9386 (+0.0031)
Exchange index 92.7 (+0.4)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1881.1 (-13.6)
FT-SE 100 2355.5 (-16.2)
New York Dow Jones Closed
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 32445.92 (+31.32)
Closing Prices ... Page 29

Major indices and major changes Page 28

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 15%
3-month Interbank: 13.5%
3-month Eurodollar: 14%
US Prime Rate: 10%
Federal Funds: 8.5%
3-month Treasury Bills: 7.71-7.69%
30-year bonds: 103.50-103.50%

CURRENCIES

London New York:
£ 1.7842 \$ 1.7765;
DM 2.9386 DM 1.6505;
Swf 2.4828 Swf 1.9390;
FF 9.8571 FF 7.5400;
Yen 267.37 Yen 150.95;
Index 92.7 Index 88.9;
ECU 10.7271 SDR 10.751700;
ECU 12.43851 ESDR 13.03017

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$361.25-\$362.50
close \$362.25-362.75 (202.75-
203.25)
New York:
Comex \$361.25-361.75

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug) ... \$15.95 bbl (\$16.00)
Denotes Tuesday's close

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sales
Australia \$	2.34	2.18
Austria Sch	21.55	20.45
Belgium Fr	2.15	2.03
Canada \$	11.70	11.00
Denmark Kr	7.22	6.82
Finland Mkr	10.26	9.82
Germany Dm	3.09	2.89
Iceland Kr	2.77	2.62
Hong Kong \$	14.50	13.60
Ireland Pt	1.47	1.07
Italy Lira	2.80	2.20
Japan Yen	3.42	3.24
Korea Glw	11.80	11.10
Morocco Kr	2.68	2.53
Portugal Esc	1.10	1.05
Saudi Arabia Rd	6.00	5.40
Spain Pt	1.25	1.15
Sweden Kr	2.59	2.43
Turkey Lira	4.60	4.60
USA \$	1.87	1.76
Yugoslavia Dinar	24.25	19.25

Rates for small denomination bank only. Rates supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers cheques. Retail Price Index: 128.2 (May)

SLB

- BUSINESS AND FINANCE 23-30
- LAW 36
- SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY 31-34
- SPORT 36-42

THE TIMES

BUSINESS

THURSDAY JULY 5 1990

الجنيه

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Goldman rigging ruled out by SE

By MATTHEW BOND

OLYMPIA & York's chairman, Paul Reichmann, has begun talks to secure long-term funding for the first phase of Canary Wharf, the company's £3 billion project in London Docklands.

Development of the 4.5 million sq ft first phase has been paid out of the Canadian company's internal funds and from Canadian credit lines. However, with more than 50 per cent of the first phase let, Mr Reichmann believes that long-term finance for the first eight buildings can be put in place.

Mr Reichmann said that Olympia & York had negotiated binding contracts for about 2.5 million sq ft of space out of a lettable area of 4.5 million sq ft. He expects a further 1 million sq ft - almost all of the remaining space in the medium-rise blocks - to be let in the next six to

nine months. "We have never had that high a level of space committed in a project 15 months before the space is available," he said.

Although refusing to be drawn on specific deals to attract tenants to the project, Mr Reichmann confirmed that all the lettings were at rents of about £30 a sq ft and on leases of between 25 and 30 years. All the leases we have signed to date, with the exception of Merrill Lynch, are fixed binding commitments," he said.

No tenants, he said, were having "significant" rent-free periods.

Future tenants would not be given the same, unspecified, incentives that attracted the scheme's first tenants, such as American Express, Manufacturers Hanover, Olivetti & Mather and Texaco.

In particular, Mr Reichmann thought it very unlikely that O&Y would any longer take on financial

responsibility for the City or West End office space that tenants moving to Canary Wharf left behind.

"At this point in time we will not do that any more," he said. "But we have not done as much of that as the media believes."

Among the space being vacated is the Adelphi building that Manufacturers Hanover spent £90 million to acquire two years ago, and phase two of Broadgate, where a 30-year lease granted to Shearson Lehman, the American Express subsidiary, still has 26 years to run.

Mr Reichmann was speaking on a visit to London within a fortnight of the third anniversary of O&Y assuming control of the project.

With its steel workers now back at work after a week-long strike, the project's centrepiece, an 800 ft skyscraper, should soon become Britain's tallest building.

Mr Reichmann said: "The project

is now sufficiently let to start financing at competitive rates. We are now talking with a whole series of banks."

A number of international banks were likely to be involved, he said.

"When it comes to a multi-billion dollar project, it will end up being internationally financed," he said.

The status of the scheme's founder bank backers, Morgan Stanley and Credit Suisse First Boston, Mr Reichmann described as midway between owner-occupiers and tenant. Both banks are committed to 500,000 sq ft buildings, which they are developing and will occupy.

After an unspecified period, these buildings revert to Olympia & York.

Mr Reichmann appeared undismayed by Merrill Lynch's recent decision not to move to Canary Wharf. Merrill is one of O&Y's biggest tenants in its World Financial Centre in New York. Last year,

ML exercised a put option over 500,000 sq ft of its New York space. "All that half a million sq ft has now been taken up in a very difficult market," said Mr Reichmann.

He believes that the money that O&Y invests in environment and amenity makes its buildings easier to let in a difficult market, be it New York or London.

The reletting of an older 900,000 sq ft New York office building recently vacated by the collapsed bank Drexel Burnham Lambert is proving more difficult, he admitted.

O&Y's links with the troubled

North American real estate and retail company, Campco, were, Mr Reichmann said, "most unpleasant". O&Y, he pointed out, had only a 10 per cent stake in Campco, which had cost about Can\$78 million (£38 million). Warrants over a further 28 per cent would not be exercised, he said.

CHRIS HARRIS

O&Y seeks bank backers for Canary site

Berlin expects jobless to soar

From WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
IN EAST BERLIN

THE East German government expects a steep rise in unemployment to become evident.

An official at the East German employment ministry, speaking only days after monetary union with West Germany, said: "most unpleasant" O&Y, he pointed out, had only a 10 per cent stake in Campco, which had cost about Can\$78 million (£38 million). Warrants over a further 28 per cent would not be exercised, he said.

No figures are yet available for the first days in July, but the East German employment ministry released figures for June, which showed a 50 per cent rise from 94,000 to 142,000, even before the impact of the deutschmark has been felt.

Queues are already becoming a customary sight in a country where there was no official unemployment until late last year.

At an unemployment office in the northern part of East Berlin, the number of daily applicants has quadrupled this week to 1,100, of which on average only about 10 per cent will succeed in finding new jobs.

Dr Gerhard Rosenkranz, the director of the office, said: "This is only indirectly related to the deutschmark. The people who register today were sacked in mid-June since employers had to give at least two weeks' notice."

"Now, with the introduction of the deutschmark, you will see that the figure will rise substantially in mid-July."

He said unemployment will rise faster than the rate at which new jobs will be created. "The higher the level of unemployment, the shorter the period until new jobs will be created."

He believes that, optimistically, East Germany's acute unemployment problem will last between two and three years.

While East Berlin is not as badly affected as some of the poorer regions in the south or the east of the country, there is a greater proportion of unemployed of academics. Many of these are redundant bureaucrats and former Stasi security policemen who lack skills relevant to the free market.

At an unemployment office in Rostock, a city on the Baltic coast, about 2,000 people registered on Tuesday.

There were angry scenes after applicants were forced to wait for more than three hours, only to receive an unemployment application form. They then had to join another queue to have their application forms processed.

Mandela says state role is 'inevitable'

By DAVID BREWERTON

NELSON Mandela, the deputy chairman of the African National Congress, told industry leaders in London that the intervention of the government in business will be "necessary and inevitable" in a post-apartheid democracy.

He said that a "spontaneous trickle-down effect" would never be sufficient to redress the gross imbalances embedded in the South African economy, including the almost exclusive control of land by a small minority, even among the white population.

But Mr Mandela, in an answer to a question concerning nationalisation, told the Confederation of British Industry audience that if there were alternatives to state intervention, they would be considered.

He emphasised that there was no blueprint as to the make-up of the mixed economy that is planned, but that the market in South Africa does not have a self-regulating mechanism that would ensure growth with equity.

Mr Mandela said investors would need to have confidence. "They should know it as a matter of fact that whatever investment they make today is not likely to vanish tomorrow."

He added that South Africa was a highly-valued business partner, but reminded Mr Mandela that the CBI opposed economic sanctions.

Mr Mandela said the ANC was "very keen to see sanctions ended as quickly as possible, but in the context of ending the inhuman system which made these sanctions necessary in the first instance".

He said he was aware of the damage done to the economy by sanctions. "We do not want to see the economy reduced to ashes."

ment skills, the body of technology, and the risk capital which make for the success of your own corporations in both the domestic and international markets.

"We are sensitive to the fact that as investors in a post-apartheid South Africa, you will need to be confident about the security of your investments, an adequate and equitable return on your capital and a general climate of peace and stability."

Sir Brian Corby, the CBI president, said Britain "has tried nationalisation and learned from experience that it does not work. One has only to observe... Eastern Europe to realise that this is not the way forward."

He added that South Africa was a highly-valued business partner, but reminded Mr Mandela that the CBI opposed economic sanctions.

Mr Mandela said the ANC was "very keen to see sanctions ended as quickly as possible, but in the context of ending the inhuman system which made these sanctions necessary in the first instance".

He said he was aware of the damage done to the economy by sanctions. "We do not want to see the economy reduced to ashes."

They said administrators had been appointed on Monday following trading losses and cash flow difficulties.

Blackspur Leasing was based in Kent and offered a leasing service to printers, mainly financing Heidelberg and MAN Roland presses.

Blackspur, which also em-

ployed some former Atlantic employees after the company

collapsed in April, fell victim to the same problems as

Atlantic: "flex and walk" leases that book the profit from a lease at the start when the lease may abandon the contract before it ends.

Tony Bribery and John Talbot, the administrators set up by Arthur Andersen, said the group, which also includes Blackspur Graphics and Blackspur plc, had an annual turnover of about £50 million in 1989.

They said administrators had been appointed on Monday following trading losses and cash flow difficulties.

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R Fleming advances to £36.5m

By ANGELA MACKAY

ROBERT Fleming Holdings, the privately-owned financial services group, increased after-tax profits from £27.1 million to £36.5 million in the year to end-March. But directors pointed to flatter earnings in the current year.

Although rising costs and a delayed shock from the October 1987 share market crash ate into profits in the previous year, the group had shown a strong recovery, according to John Manser, the group chief executive.

He said securities trading, albeit profitable, was lower than last year. He pointed out that the company last month decided to shut down its British market-making operation to avoid future losses.

Mr Manser said about half of the group's profits were generated by asset management and half by banking, trading and corporate finance. He added that corporate finance had made a much bigger contribution since concentrating on medium-sized firms. The division completed 242 deals last year.

Jardine Fleming, the group's 50 per cent owned Asian subsidiary, contributed

about £20 million to after-tax profits.

Robin Fleming, the new chairman and a grandson of the company's founder, said the downturn in activity on the Japanese stock market had affected profits from this region.

This was reflected by the substantial decline in the performance-based salary of the group's most highly paid director. Based in Asia, the unnamed director earned more than £1 million in 1988, but only £507,000 last year.

Robert Fleming, which is half owned by directors and half by institutions, is expanding into Europe. It obtained a banking licence in West Germany and has improved the securities sales team in France.

Mr Manser said the private client business in Britain had also been developed recently with the addition of 18 former employees of British & Commonwealth, the collapsed finance group.

Sav & Prosper, the investment management arm, also had a good year, the result of increased sales of pension and personal equity plans.

Ridley orders French to cut water stake

TONY LARKIN

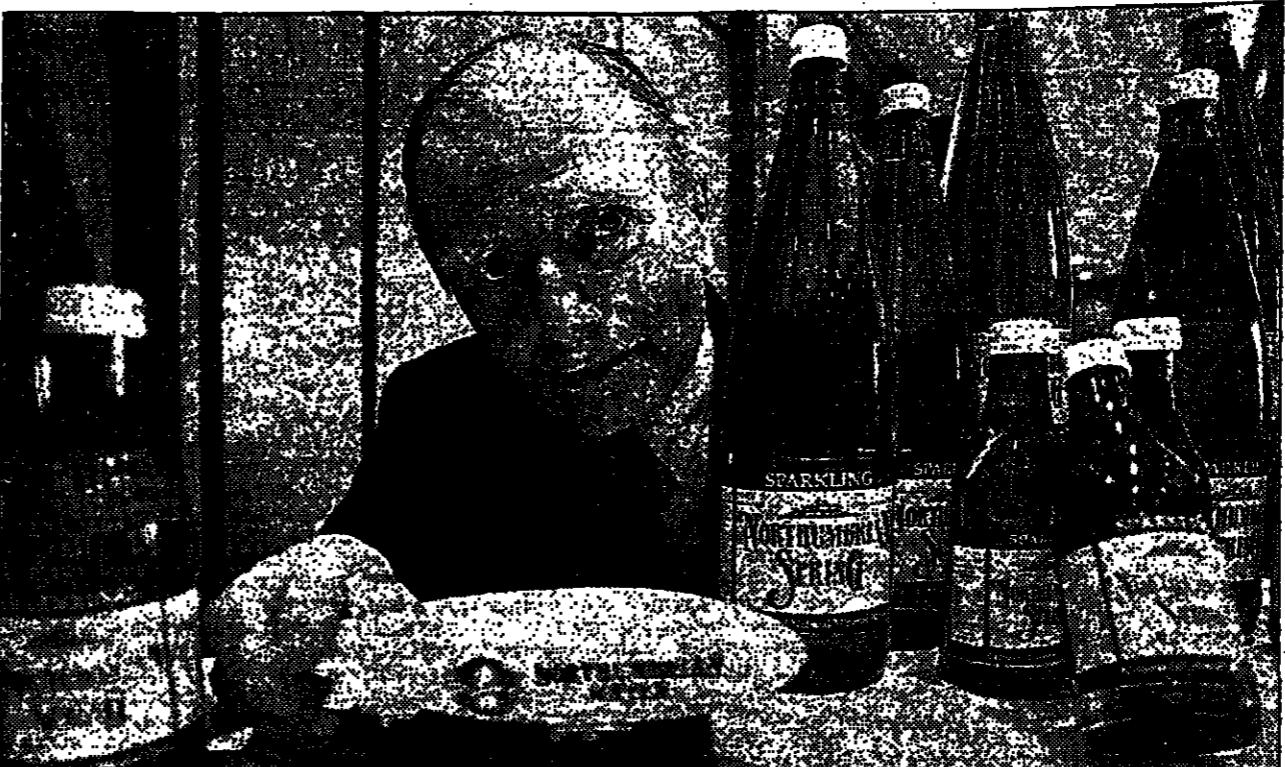
By MARTIN WALLER
GENERAL Utilities, owned by the French group Compagnie Générale des Eaux, has been ordered to reduce its 29.9 per cent stake in Mid Kent Water Company to below 20 per cent by Nicholas Ridley, the trade secretary (Martin Waller writes).

But no action is being taken over the 25 per cent stake in another statutory water company, Mid Sussex, which is held by Southern Water, one of the 12 area boards privatised at the end of last year.

The water industry has been awaiting the rulings as a guide to the government's attitudes towards the increased consolidation of the water industry in recent years. Both stakes were referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for examination at the start of the year.

Mr Ridley has gone further than required by the commission in bringing to heel the French company, which now faces a loss on its investment if it is required to reduce its Mid Kent stake immediately.

The commission was looking for undertakings from General Utilities and its parent that they would not become involved in management, would not take a seat on the board, would not block special resolutions and would not seek privileged access to financial and commercial information. Only if such undertakings were not given did the commission believe



Sparkling result: Sir Michael Straker, chairman of Northumbrian Water, announces an above-forecast profit

that any of the stake should be sold.

Mr Ridley, however, has decided that it might not be possible to devise effective undertakings to protect the public interest, ordering that a third of the shares be sold anyway and requiring General Utilities not to seek board representation.

Dr Angela Whelan, water analyst at Barclays de Zoete

Wedd, did not believe the ruling represented a government block on takeovers of water companies by French concerns, which, she thought, were unlikely to be attempted in the short term anyway.

"The signal that's gone out isn't so much anti-French, though because the French are the main predator it will be interpreted as that."

"The signal is to back off for

a couple of years," she said. General Utilities said it was disappointed at the secretary of state's decision but refused to comment on whether it would be obeyed.

The commission decided that as Mid Sussex was already controlled by a French group, SAUR Water Services, Southern Water's acquisition of its stake in February last year could not operate against

the public interest. Under the relevant legislation Mr Ridley therefore has no powers to act against the holding.

• Northumbrian Water, the smallest of the 10 privatised water companies, reported pre-tax profits of £54.3 million in the year to end-March, £4.5 million above the forecast in the prospectus.

• SGS (United Kingdom), a subsidiary of the Swiss group, is offering TPS shareholders 325p for each share. There is also a loan-note alternative.

TPS shares closed by 5p to 325p on the news. SGS has received acceptances for 2,385 million TPS shares, or 50.09 per cent. On the basis of TPS's results for 1989, the offer values TPS at an exit multiple of 14 times.

The offer represents a 20 per cent premium above the 270p share price announced before TPS announced that Richard Avery, the chairman, was discussing the sale of his 29.8 per cent stake and that this could lead to an offer for the company.

The shares were trading at about 210p before speculation concerning the sale of Mr Avery's shareholding.

• SGS intends to supply TPS with an international network that should enhance overseas opportunities, particularly in continental Europe.

Tempus, page 25

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Hollas falls to £2.63m but improves payout

HOLLAS Group, the Manchester clothing distributor and yarn processor, suffered a 13 per cent slide in pre-tax profits to £2.63 million in the year to end-March. Turnover advanced 16 per cent to £57.6 million, boosted by an 11-month contribution from Hawkshead Sportswear, the Cumbrian outdoor clothing retailer acquired for £2 million in April last year. However, Hawkshead failed to meet profit forecasts because of high stock levels.

Earnings per share fell from 6.6p to 3.8p. The final dividend is maintained at 1.6p, making an improved total of 3.2p (3.1p) for the year. There was an extraordinary charge of £181,000 relating to closure costs. Interest payments rose 34 per cent to £1.09 million, although gearing has been reduced from 31 per cent to 28 per cent. Barclays de Zoete Wedd is looking for pre-tax profits of £2.2 million in the current year.

Motor dealer up to £4.45m

REG Vandy, the motor dealer which came to the main market via a placing of shares in October, reported pre-tax profits of £4.45 million for the year to end-April, against £3.8 million last year. A final dividend of 2.4p a share is equivalent to a total of 3.6p had the shares been listed throughout the year, compared with a 3.375p forecast in the flotation prospectus. Earnings per share rose from 10.5p to 11p.

Profit dips at shopfitter

CAMPBELL & Armstrong, the office, shopfitting and building services group, is planning to step up from the unlisted securities market to a full listing. The news accompanies results for the year to end-March showing a dip in pre-tax profits from £3.06 million to £3.01 million on turnover 29 per cent higher at £74 million. Earnings per share fall from 17.5p to 13.8p, but the final dividend rises to 3.35p (3.35p), making 5p (4.95p).

Westport cuts payout

WESTPORT Group, the USM marketing services group in which Carlton Communications has a 27 per cent holding, has cut its total dividend from 1p to 0.6p for the year to April 30 in a move that reflects the difficult conditions in the retail and advertising sectors.

The company lifted pre-tax profits by 11 per cent to £2.73 million on turnover 38 per cent higher at £18.8 million. But earnings per share, diluted by last August's £16.2 million purchase of Carlton Fox and Carlton Studios, slipped from 2.3p to 1.4p. The exhibition division has seen tighter margins. The board said the remainder of 1990 looks difficult for the division.

EFG slumps at half-time

PRE-TAX profits at EFG, the forest management and garden centre company, fell from £1.24 million to £495,000 in the six months to April 1. Turnover was ahead by 37 per cent to £25.4 million. Income from the sale of property and investments was only £12,000, against £594,000. Interest costs jumped from £85,000 to £487,000. Earnings per share plunged from 7.4p to 2.3p. However, the interim dividend is held at 1.25p.

£12.5m deals for Kunick

KUNICK, the leisure group, is spending up to £12.5 million on two deals. It is buying the Oakcrest Group, which runs five freehold nursing homes in Yorkshire for £5.75 million, plus £100,000 payable depending on planning consent. Kunick is buying Ferrymatics, an amusement machine operator, for £1.75 million, plus an extra £4.9 million subject to profits. A placing of 4.2 million new shares at 59p is to help to finance the deals.

No Shield dividend

SHIELD Group, the residential developer and estate agent, is again passing its final dividend despite a tenfold rise in pre-tax profits to £640,000 in the year to March 31. This leaves shareholders with no payment at all compared with 1p last time. The company made an operating loss of £630,000 before £1.3 million of interest receivable.

Pre-tax profits in 1988-89 had been almost wiped out by £654,000 of exceptional items associated with the cost of closing branches of Stickley & Kent, the north London estate agent. Norman Mazzure, the chairman, said the losses at S&K had continued last year, although the firm was establishing itself as a specialist property insolvency service.

17th century Europe.

A patchwork of states and principalities with a growing awareness of the Orient, and a taste for Chinese ceramics.

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Fujitsu, a world leader in computer, communications and semiconductor technologies and a company with a long-standing commitment to cross-cultural exchange. "Porcelain for Palaces" is presented jointly by The British Museum and The Oriental Ceramic Society.

Photo shows a
Shishi lion mounted in ormolu as a candelabrum, Japan, 1670-90. The mount, probably French, c. 1750. Height 34cm. From the collection of the Residenzmuseum, Munich.

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TPS agrees £15m offer from Swiss

By PHILIP PANGALOS

TECHNOLOGY Project Services, the supplier of contract engineering personnel, has agreed to a £15.6 million cash offer from Societe Generale de Surveillance Holding.

This group is based in Switzerland and is the world's largest independent inspection and testing group, employing 23,000 staff and operating in 140 countries.

SGS (United Kingdom), a subsidiary of the Swiss group, is offering TPS shareholders 325p for each share. There is also a loan-note alternative.

TPS shares closed by 5p to 325p on the news. SGS has received acceptances for 2,385 million TPS shares, or 50.09 per cent. On the basis of TPS's results for 1989, the offer values TPS at an exit multiple of 14 times.

The offer represents a 20 per cent premium above the 270p share price announced before TPS announced that Richard Avery, the chairman, was discussing the sale of his 29.8 per cent stake and that this could lead to an offer for the company.

The shares were trading at about 210p before speculation concerning the sale of Mr Avery's shareholding.

SGS intends to supply TPS with an international network that should enhance overseas opportunities, particularly in continental Europe.

Wedded to his job no longer

ONE of the original Winklers, the former Winkler-Dietrich partners, led by Carl Heinz Winkler, has sold his 100-year-old family business to the US giant Textron. The Winklers' son, Karl Heinz Winkler, 30, who had been managing director of the department store chain, has joined the Textron group.

Textron, which has 100 million customers in 120 countries, has bought the Winkler business for £100 million.

Carl Heinz Winkler, 30, who has joined the Textron group, has sold his 100-year-old family business to the US giant Textron.

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By PHILIP PEARCE
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This group is based in Switzerland and is the world's largest independent inspection and testing group employing 13,000 staff and operating in 140 countries.

SGS (United Kingdom), a subsidiary of the Swiss group, is offering TPS shareholders 325p for each share. There is also a loan-note alternative. TPS shares closed by 325p on the news. SGS has received acceptances for 21 million TPS shares, or 60 per cent. On the basis of TPS results for 1989, the offer values TPS at an estimated £14 million.

The offer represents a 20 per cent premium above the 21p share price immediately before TPS announced the Richard Attenborough chairman was discussing the sale of 29.8 per cent share and this could lead to an offer.

The share price trading about 21p per share yesterday concerning the sale of 29.8 per cent share.

SCS intend to support the offer.

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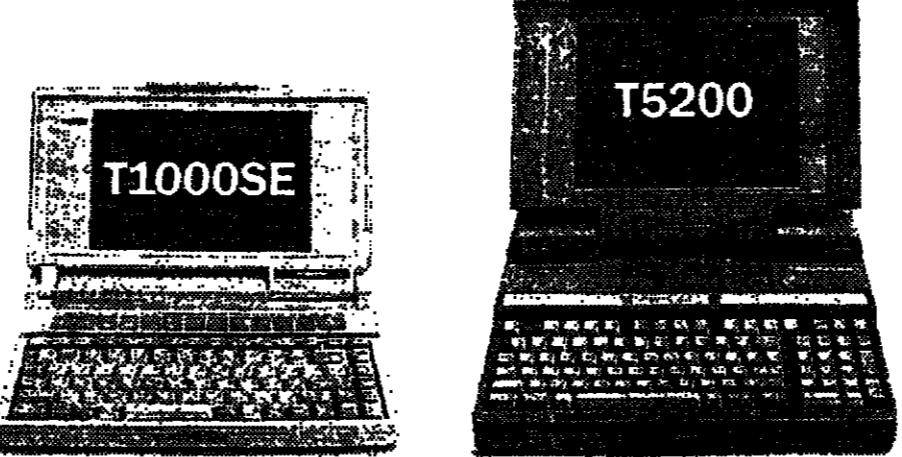
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with a computer

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aimed at getting
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market, which is
growing rapidly.
With a computer

See Verso's
plans in last
day's review. Then
see Engineering
on page 22
which shows
the market
share of St. Peter
McArdle

During the year to end
of January, profits
doubled 93 per cent to
£1 million before charges.
This helped to
boost the trading
of British Federal
and McFadden
Engineering

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BROWN & Tawer, the
ice and steel supplier
which issued a trading
up in March, yesterday
posted pre-tax profits down
9 per cent to £5 million.
Up to the end of March
per share dividend
13p, reflecting
the 10 per cent
acquisition
by Fasteners in April.
The total dividend
15p after a final 5.5p.
Gill Black, chairman,
said there had been a
deceleration in trading

COMP
SURREY GROUP (Fin)
Pre-tax £1.8m (£0.25m)
EPS 1.12p (0.20p)
Div 0.075p (nil)

DISCOMBE PROPERTY
Pre-tax £0.07m (£0.06m)
EPS 0.15p (nil)
Div 0.075p (nil)

UNICO (Fin)
Pre-tax £0.77m (£0.64m)
EPS 0.45p (0.30p)
Div 0.224p, mkg 3.815p

SHROPSHIRE GROUP (Imp)
Pre-tax £0.54m (£0.27m)
EPS 0.65p (0.50p)

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'Bullish' hotels beat trading difficulties to see revenues rise

By DEREK HARRIS, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE HOTEL sector, one of the few industries to shrug off the worst effects of Britain's difficult trading conditions, is enjoying rising revenues as room occupancy rates continue to edge higher.

Average daily room charges — the amount actually paid in contrast to advertised or rack rates which may be discounted — rose 9 per cent last year to £47.51, according to the latest annual survey by Horwath Consulting, part of the Stoy Hayward consultancy group.

The survey shows that all regions experienced revenue growth, and concludes that, despite more difficult trading conditions, "the industry remains in a bullish mood" following a spate of acquisitions and the creation of several new public hotel companies.

There has been a surge in hotel investment in England, some £4 billion last year, a 70 per cent rise on the year before, says Horwath, which expects investment levels to slip back this year because of the effect of higher interest rates.

The increase in investment

stemmed from several developments. There has been an increase in the number of budget hotels, which charge between £20 and £30 a night.

Leading companies in this sector include Travelodge and France's Accor with its Ibis and Formula One hotels.

Jonathan Bodlender, a director of Horwath, has forecast a general reduction in the services offered by hotels. He says: "the trend towards... the reduced levels of service, now illustrated in both budget and all-suite hotels, will develop in all sectors of the industry."

Most new products will be offered with almost no personal service at all and unserviced accommodation may become as accepted in commercial, as it is in holiday, destinations.

Another factor behind the investment surge has been the increasing popularity of golf, which is fueling an increase in the number of hotels linked to courses.

Occupancy rates in London, already at a healthy level, rose 1 per cent to 76.2 per cent last year. The achieved room rate

was almost £75 a night, an increase of 9 per cent over 1988. The rise was in line with the inflation rate for the hotel sector.

Labour costs in hotels rose 1.3 per cent but fewer staff were employed. However, the overall productivity index for London hotels declined.

Three big luxury hotel developments in London are due to open in a year — the refurbished Dorchester in Park Lane, the reconstructed Langham near Portland Place and the converted St George's Hospital site at Hyde Park Gate. Plans are being drawn up for conversion of the County Hall site.

In the provinces, achieved room rates rose almost 10 per cent to nearly £41 a night. Scotland's average stood at £39, a 7 per cent gain. Scottish hotels were helped by a 10 per cent growth in international tourism last year. In Wales, average occupancy rates rose 1 per cent to 53 per cent. In Northern Ireland, tourist arrivals reached record levels last year but the number of hotel "bed nights" remained static because visitors stayed for shorter periods.

Colefax pastes up elegant 48% advance

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

THE Japanese wear their wealth, the Germans save it and the English plaster it on their walls, according to David Green, chief executive of Colefax and Fowler Group, purveyor of wallpaper to the upper middle classes. The English tendency is one of the reasons his business is going from strength to strength.

Pre-tax profits rose 48 per cent to £4.01 million in the year to April, turnover rose 61 per cent to £30.7 million and earnings per share rose 16 per cent to 13.4p. The final dividend is 2.4p making 3.7p for the year, a rise of 12 per cent.

Mr Green claims that his business is not dependent on the property market. Colefax and Fowler clients include Buckingham Palace and the Bank of England. "Our market tends to be redecoration," Mr Green says. "Our clients are the sort of people who are permanently redecorating, a couple of rooms at a time."

Mr Green is discreet about his clients. He does not say so, but they are not people who are postponing tiling the bathroom until mortgage rates drop. Work in progress includes a fifteenth century fortified house on a Greek island, two yachts and the restoration of an important English country house.

Group gearing is about 20 per cent and there are no acquisitions planned, although complementary niche acquisitions will be considered.

At the mention of the ill-fated Colovari, Mr Green winces. "I haven't even written to the receivers," he says. "One thing we are determined to do is to stay in our own market."



Colefax look: David Green, upper-class decorator, samples its Kingcome sofas

Cash call for £10m at Verson

Banks hurt by bail-out for Trump

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN LOS ANGELES

VERSON International, the supplier of capital equipment for the manufacturing industry, is raising £10 million with a two-for-seven rights issue.

The new shares are being offered at 40p each against yesterday's price of 47p just after the news of the issue.

Directors, who speak for 45 per cent of the company, and some other shareholders are not taking up their rights in respect of 16.2 million shares, representing about 62 per cent of the issue, which has been underwritten by the Citicorp Investment Bank.

These shares were placed with institutional investors at 3½p per nil-paid share. Tim Kelleher, the chairman and chief executive, said the rights issue would help the company to continue its expansion and reduce borrowings of £19.5 million.

Since Verson's shares were re-listed in January, 1988, after the reverse takeover of Bronx Engineering, the company had returned compounded growth in earnings per share of 50 per cent, said Mr Kelleher.

During the year to the end of January, pre-tax profits climbed 93 per cent to £3.22 million, before exceptional items, helped by the acquisition and integration of British Federal and Metform Engineering.

Tough trading reduces Brown & Tawse profit

By MARTIN BARROW

BROWN & Tawse, the pipeline and steel stockholder, which issued a trading warning in March, yesterday reported pre-tax profits down 37 per cent to £6 million for the year to the end of March.

Earnings per share fell 40 per cent to 13p, reflecting the £39.7 million acquisition of Jay Fasteners in April 1989, as well as the decline in profits. The total dividend stays at 9.5p, after a final 6.65p.

Gil Black, chairman, said that there had been a sharp deterioration in trading con-

COMPANY BRIEFS

SURREY GROUP (Fin)
Pre-tax: £0.89m (£0.25m)
EPS: 1.12p (0.20p)
Div: 0.075p (nil)

Turnover £21.3m (£17.2m). Extraordinary item of £240,000 has been written off. Surplus property disposals realised £235,000.

Final results. Gross rental income climbed from £274,000 to £285,000, although investment income slipped from £23,000 to £20,000.

Last year's total dividend was 3.5p. Turnover up 17% to £11.6m. If there is no demand downturn, board expects continued growth.

No dividend (same). Company has purchased a freehold site of five acres in Scotland for £1.1m.

BOScombe PROPERTY
Pre-tax: £0.07m (£0.06m)
EPS: 61.52p (85.14p)
Div: Nil, mkg 55p (50p)

Turnover up 17% to £11.6m. If there is no demand downturn, board expects continued growth.

No dividend (same). Company has purchased a freehold site of five acres in Scotland for £1.1m.

UMECO (Fin)
Pre-tax: £0.77m (£0.64m)
EPS: 9.8p (9.0p)
Div: 2.24p, mkg 3.815p

Turnover up 17% to £11.6m. If there is no demand downturn, board expects continued growth.

No dividend (same). Company has purchased a freehold site of five acres in Scotland for £1.1m.

SHOPRITE GROUP (Int)
Pre-tax: £0.94m (£0.87m)
EPS: 6.9p (6.0p)

No dividend (same). Company has purchased a freehold site of five acres in Scotland for £1.1m.

GLOBE INVESTMENT TRUST PLC

The offer from
BRITISH COAL PENSION FUNDS

0800 666 602

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Nissan proudly present an amazing little number for August...



£4,995*

If you're feeling gloomy about the current economic climate, here's some news that should brighten you up.

We're celebrating the sale of our quarter-of-a-millionth Micra by offering the 3-door Micra S at a special low price of just £4,995*.

The offer applies to cars ordered from July 1st and registered by August 31st.

So, to make you even happier, your new special-priced Micra S can sport the latest 'H' registration.

In case you don't realise how special the Micra S price is, suffice it to say that it's over £900 LESS than competitors from Ford, Vauxhall and Peugeot.

And the good news doesn't end there.

AN ECONOMIC MIRACLE

The Micra S is an expert in the field of economic restraint. Its clean-burn alloy engine with maintenance-free electronic ignition is one of the most powerful in its class, yet gives remarkable lead-free economy of up to 56.5 mpg*.

RELIABILITY OF THE HIGHEST ORDER

This is no idle boast. The latest confirmation comes from Britain's biggest independent providers of roadside assistance — the National Breakdown Recovery Club.

From records based on nearly two million members they produced a table of the top twenty most reliable cars in Britain. We're delighted to say that

Nissans swept the board, taking 1st, 2nd and equal 3rd places.

LUXURY STANDARD EQUIPMENT

With Nissan a low price doesn't mean a low specification. High grade cloth upholstery, adjustable head restraints, electronic-tune radio, double-folding rear seat, hinged luggage area cover and heated rear window are just part of the deluxe standard package on the Nissan Micra S.

Visit your nearest dealer today and take a closer look at the Micra S.

At £4,995* it's an amazing little number in a big number of ways.

But then when it comes to giving you unbeatable value... Nissan know how.

NISSAN
know how.

NISSAN UK LIMITED, WORTHING, SUSSEX

*PRICE EXCLUDES DELIVERY AND NUMBER PLATES.
**GOVERNMENT FUEL CONSUMPTION TEST MPG 1/100km MICRA 1.0S CONST 56mph (90km/h) 56.5 (5.0) URBAN CYCLE 44.1 (6.4)

STOCK MARKET

P&O tumbles by 21p after Capel cuts profit forecast for next year

By MICHAEL CLARK, STOCK MARKET CORRESPONDENT

THE steady stream of profit downgradings by City analysts affecting leading companies has turned into a torrent.

The latest victim is P&O which has interests stretching from shipping to property development and housebuilding. Its share price tumbled 21p to 628p after James Capel, the broker, decided to reduce its profit forecast for next year by £21 million to £404 million.

Yasmin Harrison, an analyst, blames a fall in property sales and a sharp increase in interest charges. The housebuilding side also remains depressed.

She said: "The company has spent a lot of money on cruise and container ships lately and, in 1989, its debt repayments doubled because of its high gearing." But she is keeping to her forecast of £366 million for this year. Last year, the group made pre-tax profits of £376 million, including £22 million from the sale of its 8 per cent stake in Taylor Woodrow.

Miss Harrison added: "In the lead-up to the interim figures in September, the shares are a sell. There is more bad news to come before we see any upturn."

Capel's action follows a similar profits downgrading

Government securities

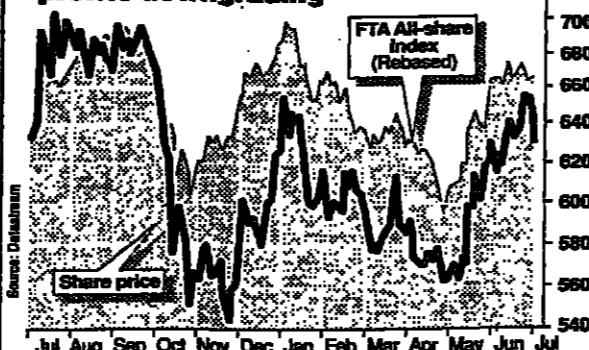
Fall-year figures today

from Tiphook, the container and trailer rental group, should show pre-tax profits up from £18 million to £32 million. County NatWest is looking for £77 million this year, helped by a full contribution from the Sealink acquisition. The shares rose 1p to 536p.

never recovered from an opening mark-down and ended only 1/4% higher at the longer end.

The pound's strength against most of its main rivals has started to cause concern among brokers. They are wor-

P & O latest casualty of profits downgrading



Source: Datamonitor Share price

FTSE All-share index (Price Related)

Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul

to fluctuate with the price tumbling 20p to 65p. Dealers are now worried that the sale of some subsidiaries to cut debts may fail to raise the necessary cash. A couple of weeks ago, the group issued a warning that profits were likely to be disappointing and analysts cut their forecasts from £34 million to £20 million compared with £23 million last time. The price tumbled from the 346p level, briefly touching a low of 49p.

One of the few bright spots on a dull day was Midland Bank, up 6p to 305p, after a buy recommendation from County NatWest WoodMac. County is urging its clients to

nadian and South African titanium dioxide operations.

Christies International, the fine art auctioneer, fell 5p to 368p despite the news that Michael Astorff's ADT had topped up its holding with the purchase of 100,000 shares. This takes ADT's holding in Christies to 34.6 million shares or 20 per cent.

RTZ, the last of the independent mining finance houses, fell 22p to 541p on the back of a profits downgrading by its own broker, Barclays de Zoete Wedd, and a rival, UBS Phillips & Drew. BZW has reduced its estimate for the current year by £40 million to £550 million. BZW blames a weak copper price, currency fluctuations and a disappointing performance from its Ca-

meanwhile, Sir Ron Brierty, the New Zealand businessman, has been lifting his stake in BSG International.

He has bought 1 million shares, raising his holding to 45.3 million shares, or 22.09 per cent. Only AngloPilat failed to make headway, losing 6p to 44p.

Shares in Parkfield, the troubled film services and video rentals group, continued

on last year's losses of £261 million. It is predicting pre-tax profits of £385 million for the current year.

The rest of the clearers spent a mixed day with Barclays losing 2p to 387p, Lloyds firming 7p to 281p and National Westminster closing all-square at 320p. The sector has been under a cloud recently following a series of downgradings by analysts who are worried about growing provisions for bad debts.

Mid Kent Water held steady at 20p despite the government's order to Compagnie Generale des Eaux, the French conglomerate, to reduce its 29.9 per cent stake to 19.9 per cent.

Full-year figures from Northumbrian were ahead of forecast, showing pre-tax profits of £10.1 million compared with £10.1 million last time. The price rallied from a fall to close unchanged at 167p. But there were small gains for North West, 24p to 159p, Severn Trent, 3p to 143p, South West, 2p to 176p, Thames, 1p to 156p, Welsh, 2p to 177p, Wessex, 3p to 162p and Yorkshire, 4p to 165p. Only Anglia failed to

make headway, losing 6p to 155p, while Southern held steady at 155p. The water package closed £35 higher at £1,593.

County is forecasting an offer for Midland of 370p a share — providing it moves soon — and an improvement

WORLD MARKETS

Frankfurt shares continue to rise with 18-point leap

Frankfurt

SHARES continued their upwards trend, closing 1 per cent higher after a small consolidation on Tuesday. The DAX index closed 18.90 points higher at 1,925.13. The DAX has now risen by 45 points, or 2.4 per cent, from Friday's close. Dealers said sentiment was still positive.

The return of foreign buyers had rekindled hopes that prices will continue to rise to late-March's record levels. One said: "The mood is still upwards to 2,000 (on the DAX)."

Good news from East Germany after the weekend start of monetary union breathed life into the market. Confidence has grown amid signs that East Germans have not, so far, gone on a spending spree with their new German marks.

The markets had feared that irresponsible spending would force up West German inflation.

Dealers expect share prices to continue to rise in the short term, noting there would probably be some consolidation before prices approach record levels again.

Among financial stocks, Dresdner Bank rose sharply, gaining DM15 to DM449.50.

Dealers said unconfirmed reports that a warrant would soon be issued on Dresdner shares helped to boost the stock. Elsewhere in the sector, Deutsche Bank rose DM10.50 to DM818.50.

Daimler closed DM5.00 higher at DM863.00. The company said it expects operating results to be satisfactory by 1992. Siemens closed DM9.80 higher at DM772.50.

● Tokyo — Shares closed higher on the yen's rise against the dollar. The Nikkei average was up 31.32 points, or 0.10 per cent, to 32,445.92.

● Sydney — The market finished higher on good volume with most big stocks strongly sought. The All-Ordinates index leapt 28.3 points, or nearly 2 per cent, to 1,541.1.

● Hong Kong — The blue-chip index rose on optimistic sentiment that overpowered profit-taking and consolidation in the mid-morning. The Hang Seng index rose 6.94, to 3,363.49, and the broader-based Hong Kong index 4.68 to 2,208.53.

● Singapore — Prices were broadly weaker in lacklustre trading, but the Straits Times industrial index ended 3.90 higher at 1,528.25, helped by two-digit gains in some index stocks.

(Reuters)

Wall Street was closed yesterday for the Independence Day holiday.

Saatchi makes \$16m loss on sale

By MARTIN WALLER

SAATCHI & Saatchi, the debt-plagued advertising group, has sold the last of its consultancies of any size, Gartner Group, at a price \$1.16 million lower than it had paid for the business.

The buyer is Information Partners, an American fund that specialises in buy-outs in partnership with existing management, which is paying \$55 million in cash and another \$15 million either as a subordinated promissory note or as preferred stock.

Saatchi acquired Gartner, which provides computer consultancy services, in June 1988 for an initial \$76 million, with another \$10 million paid subsequently.

The purchaser says that it intends to offer some 25 per cent of the equity in the company to key staff and managers of the consultancy, which is based in Stamford, Connecticut. The deal is subject to the necessary financing being available, as well as to various due-diligence procedures satisfactory to the buyer.

The sale means that Saatchi should reach its unofficial target of \$80 million gross for asset sales in the current financial year to end-September, at which stage borrowings should have reduced to £200 million. Still for sale during that period is LSL, a small American litigation specialist, which is unlikely to command a high value.

Analysts were inclined to regard the latest disposal as another forced sale commanding a correspondingly low price, although it is seen as an improvement on the most recent disposal, that of the legal consultancy Peterson, for an initial payment \$1.14 million less than its original purchase price.

Gartner made a \$1.8 million pre-tax loss in its last financial half-year.

The author is the director general of the CBI.

Saving for an eternal economy

John Banham, of the CBI, argues for restraint in personal spending and urges Britain to think more of the future

THE OLD Norfolk saying goes: "You should live your life as though you expect to die tomorrow, and farm your land as though you expect to live for ever."

Perhaps Britain's economists, too many of whom seem to have been in hibernation throughout the 1980s if their replies to the latest Institute of Economic Affairs enquiry are any guide, should be asking why Britain appears to have lost the personal savings habit.

This would be more profitable than indulging in seemingly interminable macroeconomic analysis. They are reinforcing the propensity of the financial markets to focus on the wrong problems.

Take the trade gap. The £19 billion current account deficit for 1989 was greeted with universal dismay. It was suggested that the supply side improvements of the last few years were running dry. Once again, the old myth was wheeled out that "we don't make anything any more".

The latest facts suggest a wholly different picture:

● Manufacturing output in volume is at a record level, more than 17 per cent up on January 1987.

● Exports are at a high: they are running 29 per cent up on the beginning of 1987, even though sterling is now almost 5 per cent stronger relative to the mark than it was, and is 15 per cent up against the dollar. (So much for the devaluation hypothesis).

● Investment in manufacturing remains at a high, about 30.2 per cent (in volume) above the level in the first quarter of 1987. And not just in plant and equipment

● On efficiency, 28 of the 50 most efficient manufacturers in Europe were British, in plant and equipment



No quick fixes: Banham advocates a long-term approach to economic management according to an independent survey, published recently.

In short, the evidence supports the thrust of a National Economic Development Organisation paper, that Britain has done particularly well in high technology, notwithstanding the current pressures.

● In consumer durables, Britain is no longer at a competitive disadvantage. Analysis of the May trade figures shows that in the latest three months, the volumes of exports of capital goods, consumer goods (excluding motor cars), and components were up 21, 19 and 13 per cent respectively on the comparable period of 1989. Import rises for these categories were 1.5, 7.5 and 5 per cent respectively. Of the six "best buys" of consumer durables reported by Which magazine since the start of 1990, four were made in Britain.

One reason for the shortfall is that inflation in house prices has become a means of generating savings for individuals. During the boom, the market value of Britain's housing stock probably rose by at least £100 billion a year, while its economic value fell since few households could afford to maintain the prop-

erty they had bought so expensively. Funds tied up in housing are not available for productive investment elsewhere in the economy.

But does this matter? The answer must be yes, it matters very much. To keep consumer demand under control (and to stimulate personal savings), interest rates have to remain much higher than would otherwise be the case. Inevitably, in such circumstances, investors have to take a short-term view. "If money costs me 20 per cent, I cannot undertake any project that does not pay back in three years" is a common observation.

This effectively rules out most greenfield investment and long lead-time research and development programmes. This has serious implications for future international competitiveness: patient money always wins over impatient money. A study by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York shows the pre-tax return (inflation adjusted) needed to cover the after-tax costs of funds and the tax obligations associated with a research and development project with a 10 year pay-off lag.

Since 1988, the relative British position worsened as inflation and interest rates rose. In these circumstances, it is hardly surprising that Britain and America face a serious investment and innovation gap compared with West Germany and Japan.

The fall in personal savings is going to take time to reverse. There are no quick fixes, particularly if we wish to maintain our current structure of taxation relating to home ownership. What we should be seeking to avoid is the one "quick fix" to our balance of payments and inflation problems, which would undermine our future competitiveness.

During the boom, the lemming brigade would have broken out the champagne, rather than been forced to manufacture stories about imminent British accession to the exchange rate mechanism to keep their spir-

ing (and share prices) up. So what is the problem?

Put simply, the nation saves too little and consumes too much. Latest analysis as part of a CBI study of the root causes of inflation suggests that if personal savings in Britain had matched Continental levels (proportionate to GDP), every household would be saving an additional £1,000 a year that is now being spent.

In total, the savings shortfall in the personal sector amounts to more than £25 billion. This exceeds our annual current account deficit.

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Flamingo Euro 10

rt shares
e to rise
oint leap

Dealers said unconfirmed re-
ports said a woman would
soon be listed on London's stock
shares helped to bring the
stock. Elsewhere in the market,
Deutsche Bank rose DM10.30
to DM15.50.

Daimler-Benz DM15.40
higher at DM15.40

computer giant to open
its operating results to analysts
for 1990. Share price closed
DM9.30 higher at DM15.40

● Tokyo — share closed

higher on the news of a strong
dollar. The Nikkei was up
was up 31.30, or 1.6 per cent, to
3,040.00.

● Sydney — after fin-
ished higher, closing
with most big gains
sought. The All Ordinaries
rose 2.20, or 0.2 per cent,

● Hong Kong —

Indra rose 1.20, or 1.2 per cent,

taking and the
the market to 1,144.40

Singapore — Sime Darby
rose 1.20, or 1.2 per cent,
based Hong Kong's
to 1,200.00

● Singapore —
broadly, were
trading mixed, with
measures higher on
higher oil prices
stocks.

used yesterday in the
ice Day holiday

Santahi
shares
\$16m loss
on sale

Portfolio

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your eight share price movements on this
page only. Add them up to this overall
total and check this against the
last dividend figure. If it matches you
have won a gift or a share of the daily
prize money. See if you win, follow the
claim procedure on the back of your card.
Always have your card available when
claiming. Game rules appear on the back
of your card.

No. Company Gain or
loss

1 Lloyd's (as) Bank, Discount

2 Yorkshire Water Water

3 Pilkington Building, Roads

4 Hillhouse (as) Foods

5 Br Styron Industries A-D

6 Abbott Mead Paper, Print, Adv

7 Sime Darby Industrials S-Z

8 Thornton Foods

9 Richardson West Industrials L-R

10 Mira Electrics

11 Next (as) Drapery, Stores

12 Macro 4 Electricals

13 Computer People Electricals

14 Micro Focus Electricals

15 Young (H) Industrials S-Z

16 Clavilic Industrials A-D

17 Fobel Industrials E-K

18 Maxwell Comms Newspapers, Pub

19 Nat West Blk Bank, Discount

20 Home Counties Newspapers, Pub

21 Alumaxx Industrials A-D

22 PJ Carroll Tubacos

23 Johnson Industrials E-K

24 Reckitt Industrials L-R

25 Tiphoo Transport

26 MEPC (as) Property

27 Anglian Water Water

28 ASDA Group (as) Foods

29 Welsh Water Water

30 AB Food (as) Foods

31 Heineken Bar, Property

32 Rothmans' (as) Tobacco

33 Ultramar (as) Oil/Gas

34 Lutje Paper, Print, Adv

35 Hamble Country Property

36 Wessex Water Water

37 HTV Group Leisure

38 Linred Industrials L-R

39 Waddington (J) Paper, Print, Adv

40 Hanover Dracs Projects

41 Hambrus Banks, Discount

42 Thames Water Water

43 Hunterprint Paper, Print, Adv

44 Campani Leisure

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Please take into account any
minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals
for the weekly dividend of £2,000 in
Saturday's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT Weekly Total

The winner of yesterday's Portfolio Plat-
inum £2,000 prize was Mrs G S Santa-Cruz
of Upper Dicker, near Hailsham, East
Sussex.

BRITISH FUNDS

Int. Gross

High Low Stock Price Change p.p. % P/E

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

92% 2% Each 2% 1990 92% 2% 2.5 11.161

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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● NATURE: MONKEYS TO THE RESCUE
● HEALTH: COFFEE AND WALKING TALL

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The flight plans for a mission to Mars

As funds for Nasa's space programme are cut and two of its projects suffer setbacks, Pearce Wright looks at a new book which reveals plans for American and Soviet journeys to the stars

Troubles with the Hubble space telescope and the decision of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) to ground its space shuttle fleet after a second shuttle sprang a mysterious hydrogen leak in pre-launch tests have struck at an inopportune moment for the space agency.

These incidents throw a question mark over Nasa's long-term programmes, such as other planned orbiting observatories and a voyage to the planet Mars.

Just before the calamities, the American Congress had shown doubts about Nasa's ambitions. Although the House of Representatives voted Nasa a 17 per cent budget increase, the allocation was \$820 million (£455 million) less than the White House had requested.

The appropriation specifically cut \$300 million (£166 million) of the research funds for the Moon-Mars project, involving a manned Mars mission by 2019, to which President Bush has committed his government.

Nevertheless, Nasa is still one of the fastest-growing agencies with a budget of \$14.3 billion.

The main budget casualty was a relatively small \$6.2 million programme for the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence (SETI). SETI was to use the latest electronic equipment to monitor any signals from outer space that might reveal the existence of other civilisations.

Almost 18 years have passed since Eugene Cernan, commander of the Apollo 17 mission, left a footprint on the lunar surface. The next time a human steps on the Moon, he or she could be there to build a lunar base intended as a staging post for a longer journey to Mars.

Dr Robert Jastrow, founder and for 20 years director of Nasa's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, believes men and women will leave Earth not just to explore the planets, but also eventually to travel beyond our solar system to other stars.

Dr Jastrow's latest book, *Journey to the Stars: Space Exploration Tomorrow and Beyond*, describes how people will explore the Universe and the possibilities of finding other intelligence. In this extract he looks at the plans for visiting Mars:

● In the search for extraterrestrial life, Mars stands out above all our planetary neighbours in importance because, although it is dry today, it seems to have had an abundance of water at an earlier time. Water is the quintessential ingredient for the emergence of life from non-living matter.

Water provides a fluid medium in which the molecular building blocks of life can collide again and again, to carry on the chemical reactions that make up the ongoing business of life. The basic molecules of life may exist in abundance on a planet, but unless they are dissolved in water so that repeated collisions can occur between each molecule and its neighbours, life cannot evolve.

Conditions on Mars are far less hostile to life than on

Venus, although not as comfortable as on the Earth. During most of the Martian year the climate is extremely cold and dry. It resembles the climate in the Antarctic desert, but is even more severe.

The atmosphere is very thin, the pressure on the ground being the same as the pressure in the Earth's atmosphere at a height of 10,000ft. The air on Mars consists mainly of carbon dioxide, as on Venus. However, the Martian blanket of carbon dioxide is too thin to produce much of a greenhouse effect.

In the summer of 1976 the US Viking project resulted in a spidery object dropping down on to the plains of Mars. The information sent back to the Earth by the automaton ignited a controversy that raged for a time and then subsided, but still smoulders. Did the automaton find evidence of life on Mars?

One experiment performed by the automaton seemed to say it did. The experiment tested the soil for the presence of Martian microbes, a simple form of life, but one whose presence would still give an affirmative answer to the question: Is the evolution of life so likely in the Cosmos that it could have occurred separately on two planets in one solar system?

The experiment seemed to be completely successful. The Martian soil exhaled radioactive carbon dioxide, just as soils do in test runs of the experiment back on the Earth, when the soils contain microbes.

But other scientists disagreed. They pointed to another experiment performed by the automaton, which said with equal clarity that there was no life on Mars.

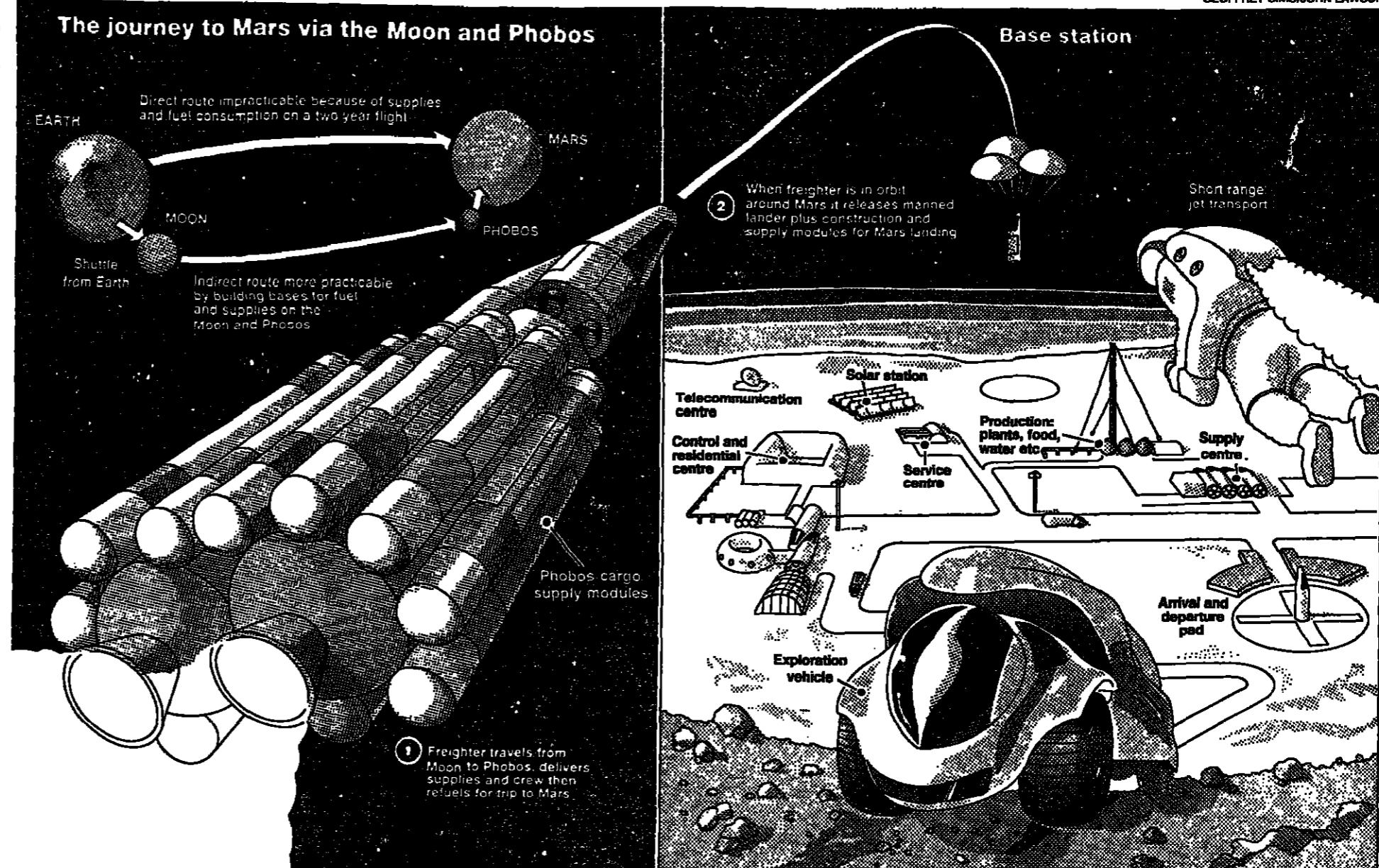
The second experiment did not search for life directly, but only for the molecular building blocks of life. These are known to chemists and biologists as organic molecules. If life existed on Mars, and even remotely resembled life on the Earth, it would be made of these organic molecules.

Even if the soil contained only the remains of dead and decomposed organisms, they would still show up in this test. The results of the test for organic molecules were clear-cut. There were no organic molecules — no building blocks of life — in the Martian soil.

The United States and the Soviet Union have become exceedingly interested in all aspects of the exploration of Mars in recent years. Surprisingly, Phobos, one of the moons of Mars, comes first in Soviet plans before the landing on Mars itself. The reason for this is extraordinary: as much as 20 per cent of Phobos may consist of water.

Water is hard to come by in space. It is not needed primarily for drinking, because in a manned mission the crew's waste water can be recycled and purified until it is drinkable. Water is important in space mainly because it provides a powerful rocket fuel.

Of course, water itself will not burn in a rocket engine. But water is a compound of the two elements hydrogen and oxygen. If water is separated into these two gases, and the gases are then cooled and liquefied, the liquid hydrogen



and liquid oxygen that result make an excellent combination for propelling rockets — one of the best rocket fuels known.

A considerable amount of energy must be expended to break apart the water molecules and obtain the separate hydrogen and oxygen. However, the energy can be supplied by a small nuclear reactor. The nuclear reactor can be carried to Phobos on one of the first flights to the Martian moon. Once set up on the surface of Phobos, it will run for a very long time without additional fuel.

After the hydrogen and oxygen gases have been produced, they must be cooled and condensed into liquids. If they were left in the form of gases, they would occupy too much volume to be carried on board the rocket. But the same nuclear reactor that separates the water into hydrogen and oxygen can also supply the electricity needed to refrigerate the hydrogen and oxygen gases until they are liquefied.

Explorers of Mars gain a great advantage if they can pick up the fuel for their return trip — made from water in this way — at their destination, instead of carrying the fuel all the way from the Earth.

If a rocket ship starts out for Mars carrying the fuel it needs for the round trip, it pays a double penalty in weight.

The ship has to carry not only the fuel that will be burned on the return trip to the Earth from Mars; it must also carry the additional fuel needed to propel that cargo of fuel to rocket speeds when the ship leaves the Earth at the start of the voyage.

Refuelling at Phobos might cut the weight of a manned mission to Mars to half or a third of this amount, and make the trip less expensive.

It might seem at first that the water, and the rocket fuel that would be made from it, could be obtained on Mars without going to Phobos at all. Mars, after all, is also believed

to have a considerable amount of water in frozen form under the surface.

The disadvantage with that plan is that it is difficult to land on Mars and pick up the fuel, because of Mars's gravity. But the water and fuel will be much easier to obtain from Mars's moon, Phobos. The main ship has to use some fuel in slowing down as it approaches the vicinity of Mars and its moons; otherwise, it would hurdle past both Mars and Phobos and go on into space.

But once the ship has been slowed down enough to prevent that from happening, the next step — the actual landing on Phobos — is simple. Because Phobos is a tiny moon — 15 miles in its longest dimension, about the size of the island of Manhattan — the pull of its gravity is so weak that a spaceship does not have to use an appreciable amount of rocket fuel to slow down for a soft landing. It merely hovers over the surface, blowing gently on the ground below.

And because Phobos's gravity is so weak, it takes hardly any rocket power to blast off from the little moon again, after you have landed there and picked up fuel and water. Human power is sufficient; a person could leap off the surface of Phobos and go into space with one good running jump.

In fact, it would take less rocket fuel, and cost less, to bring water to our Moon from Phobos, than it would to bring that water directly up to the Moon from the Earth.

These interesting possibilities depend on the assumption that Phobos really contains a large amount of water. Planetary scientists think it does, because in some important respects Phobos resembles certain kinds of meteorites called carbonaceous chondrites — pieces of planetary matter from the asteroid belt — that have a water content of as much as 20 per cent.

Scientists plan to deposit a small, driverless automobile on the surface of Mars to wander over the Martian surface. The rover is likely to be a six-wheeled vehicle, with oversized tires for coping with the rough Mars terrain.

It will be steered by an electronic brain that has been instructed beforehand in the nature of the hazards that probably await it, and the best strategies for surviving them.

These formidable hazards include a rock-strewn terrain and massive Martian dunes. If the small rover succeeds in meeting those challenges, a much larger Soviet rover will be deposited on the surface of Mars, capable of travelling hundreds of miles.

This rover will weigh three-quarters of a ton — about as much as a small automobile. It will also be an automaton, moving around and performing its scientific tasks under the direction of an electronic brain.

Meanwhile, preparations for manned flights to Mars will be under way in the US and the USSR. The manned exploration of Mars may begin with a manned interplanetary loop around the planet and a return to the Earth without landing.

That tests the reliability of the spaceship on the long interplanetary journey, before

the space travellers contend with the additional complexities of the actual descent to the surface of the planet. The US followed this conservative, two-step plan in the Moon landing project.

If successful, the pioneering manned flight around Mars may be followed by a landing — the first landing of men and women on another planet — in the early decades of the 21st century.

But such a flight would mean a stay of perhaps two years away from the Earth for the crew of the mission. Manned flights in space of such long duration present special problems for human survival that may turn out to be insoluble.

● Extracted from *Journey to the Stars: Space Exploration Tomorrow and Beyond*, by Robert Jastrow, published by Bantam Press at £14.95.

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Hi-tech businesses face barriers

Lack of money and management skills are stifling growth by small enterprises, says a report calling for research capital

Metcalf, of the economics department at Manchester University, called for a £20 million to £60 million a year programme named Genesis for small businesses to compete for research and development contracts needed to fulfil the requirements of government agencies and to give improved access to public sector research and development contracts.

Professor Metcalfe says that the scheme has the short-term goal of rapid commercial development.

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from which some of the leading international businesses of the future are expected to emerge.

Yet Britain's share of activity in this smaller businesses sector is apparently low by European standards and the pool of companies with prospects for high growth in Britain is shrinking.

The report identifies the difficult transitions that smaller businesses will have to make if they are to grow successfully and concludes that there is a need for government intervention to strengthen market processes where they are naturally weak or fail to operate.

Professor Metcalfe says two-thirds of available venture capital in Britain is spent on management buyouts rather than invested in new processes and products.

He adds that the small enterprises generally fail to expand because they lack the necessary managerial skills and short-term to medium-term finance, and that the required management training is often neglected.

● The Enterprise Challenge: Overcoming Barriers to Growth in Small Firms. HMSO, £8.90.

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Cotton-top clue to secret of life

BRUCE COLEMAN



Nature's answer? The rare cotton-top tamarin from Colombia

An endangered species of small South American monkey could be the key to understanding the human immune system. From captive populations of the cotton-top tamarin, *Saguinus oedipus*, Dr David Watkins, of the New England Regional Primate Research Center, Massachusetts, and his team have found secrets of the immune system that may shed light on the evolution of disease resistance in humans and other primates.

Dr Watkins and his colleagues have been studying a family of genes called the major histocompatibility complex (MHC).

These genes contain the instructions for proteins that sit on the membranes of cells and present foreign proteins to roving white blood cells for destruction.

In humans, the so-called "classical" class I MHC genes known as human leukocyte antigen A or HLA-A, as well as HLA-B and HLA-C, are extremely variable, so every individual has a personal MHC signature.

The variation in these MHC genes makes tissue-typing for organ transplantation difficult. But there are other class-I MHC genes that seem to operate differently.

The "non-classical" HLA-E, HLA-F and HLA-G genes are not as variable as the classical genes and their function in the human immune system, if any, is not clear.

The research shows that nearly all the class I MHC proteins in the cotton-top tamarin come from a single gene that is much more similar to the human HLA-G gene than the HLA-A, HLA-B or HLA-C genes. The remainder are reminiscent of HLA-F.

This means that the tamarin uses

A rare Colombian monkey may hold the key to fighting human disease,
Henry Gee writes

what in human terms are non-classical genes for the classical immune recognition function. These results imply that the two groups of class I MHC genes – classical and non-classical – have not always been mutually exclusive, and their functions have changed during evolution.

The last common ancestor of humans and tamarins, perhaps 40 or 50 million years ago, may have had a version of HLA-G, HLA-F and an ancestral classical gene that later differentiated into HLA-A, HLA-B and HLA-C.

During the development of humans, the classical gene became used for immune recognition at the expense of the others, but the reverse happened in the evolution of tamarins. "Non-classical" genes were pressed into service and the ancestral "classical" gene seems to have disappeared altogether.

It is interesting that, although there is enormous variation in the human MHC gene family, the tamarin MHC gene is remarkably uniform. Only 11 varieties were found in 79 unrelated tamarins.

So the variability of the human MHC system does not seem to be a prerequisite for its function. Nevertheless, tamarins are unusually sensitive to certain diseases, perhaps because their immune system does not have the flexibility that is

the hallmark of its human counterpart.

This may be one reason why tamarins are rare. The main reason for their rarity, however, must surely be the destruction of their habitat. Only about 300 cotton-top tamarins may still exist in north-west Colombia, an area of severe rainforest destruction.

The species is listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Cites), indicating that it is affected by an international trade that is also threatened with extinction, but efforts to conserve the population in captivity have been quite successful. There are now more than 1,500 cotton-top tamarins in research institutions, zoos and private collections.

The ten tamarin species in the genus *saguinus* are confined to the shrinking Central and South American forests. *Saguinus bicolor* and *saguinus leucopus* join the cotton-top in Appendix I of Cites. Tamarins, however, seem to be appearing as well as vanishing in a kind of revolving-door membership.

The golden lion tamarin, *leontopithecus rosalia*, of southern Brazil, is one of the world's most critically endangered species of mammal, but is now joined by a new species, *caissara*, the black-faced lion tamarin, whose discovery was announced only two weeks ago.

This species was discovered by two Brazilian researchers who were following up 19th-century reports of monkeys in the São Paulo area of southern Brazil, now one of the world's fastest-growing urban areas.

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Root of the problem

HAIR growth may not stem from new hair cells being formed at the base of the hair,

as has long been assumed, but from further up the hair follicle, just below the scalp. Until now it has been accepted that the cells governing hair growth must lie within the hair bulb, the shiny nodule seen at the bottom of a hair when pulled out.

Researchers from Pennsylvania University's school of medicine and the New York University Medical Center say experiments show that the crucial cells are fractions of a millimetre above the bulb, a long distance on the scale of a hair follicle.

The findings, reported in the latest issue of the journal *Cell*, could have implications for the study of hair loss, hair regeneration and baldness.

BRIEFING

Habitat threat

MORE THAN two-thirds of the world's fish catch breed in wetlands and 18 of Europe's 31 species of most endangered birds depend on them for survival.

But many of the world's 483 protected marshes, tidal flats and mangrove swamps are being degraded by drainage, pollution and dams, says Simon Lister, of the World Wide Fund for Nature.

They include areas in West Germany, Pakistan, Uruguay, South Africa, Jordan and Greece. The Coto Donana area near Cadiz in Spain, for example, is one of Europe's most important wildlife sanctuaries, but is being drained and supply water to tourist resorts.

Mr Lister told an eight-day conference of scientists, ornithologists and government officials on ways to protect threatened wetlands.

Light and safe

AN AMERICAN company has developed a computer chip, powered by artificial light, which avoids the dangers of sparks, explosion or radio interference created by electrical wiring. A gallium arsenide semiconductor, announced by Varian Associates, of California, uses a light beam with about the power of a torch, which is converted into a one-volt to 12-volt supply over a fibre optic cable.

The light is produced electrically, but Gary Vinshup, Varian's senior engineer, says:

"You can shield a light source a lot better than you can shield a long wire."

The latest aircraft computer systems, which can be susceptible to radio frequency interference, and nuclear weapons, in which designers want to keep electrical impulses away from the warhead before detonation, may use the chip.

Smart sleeping

PEOPLE on duty for long hours may be sharper if they take very short naps, says Claudio Stampi, of the Institute of Circadian Physiology in Boston, Massachusetts.

He says a three-week experiment with a volunteer limited to naps totalling less than three hours a day indicated that the approach might be particularly beneficial for emergency workers staying on duty for long periods.

Mr Stampi says Leonardo da Vinci often had 15-minute naps every four hours to increase his productivity.

An Italian actor, who emulated the Renaissance artist's sleep regime for six months, told Mr Stampi he ended up with a lot of spare time.

"He said he only stopped after six months because he did not know what to do with all his free time, since he was not another Leonardo," Mr Stampi told the Association of Professional Sleep Societies in Minneapolis last week.

JMATTHEW MAY

Walk tall for good health

Two new surveys suggest that height is a factor in heart attacks

10in. When two groups of 1,500 men in Britain were studied for eight years, 118 of the shorter group had a heart attack, compared with 62 in the taller group.

Dr Julie Palmer and her colleagues in Boston compared 910 women aged under 65 who had survived a heart attack with 1,140 others of similar age and characteristics, who had not had an attack. They found women under 4ft 11in had a 50 per cent greater chance of an attack than those reaching the average of 5ft 4in.

Dr Palmer, however, is concerned that the results may be misinterpreted.

"The last thing I want is for short women to go into a panic about heart disease," she says.

The height element intrigues researchers on both sides of the Atlantic. They believe that, although smoking, diet and high blood pressure are probably the most important factors, the human body's dimensions have to be taken into account.

A simple explanation is offered by Dr Trudy Bush, associate professor of epidemiology at Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene, Baltimore. "Smaller people have smaller arteries and the smaller the arteries, the

less gunk it takes to clog them up, and the less it takes to have a heart attack," she says.

Dr Peter Wilson, associate director of a long-term study of heart disease in 10,000 people in Framingham, Massachusetts, suggests that shorter women may carry a higher percentage of body fat around their midriff. These "apple-shaped" women appear to be more prone to heart disease than the "pear-shaped" ones, who gain weight around the hips and thighs.

In London, Mary Walker, epidemiologist at the Royal Free Hospital medical school, and co-director of the British Regional Heart Study, offers evidence to support another theory. "We found the relationship between heart disease and height in middle-aged men could be explained by the fact that shorter men tend to have worse lung function," she says. Reduced lung function and breathlessness have been linked with increased heart risks in previous studies, and could be a direct cause of heart attacks, she believes.

Factors in infancy and childhood which retard growth may also affect lung development, accounting for the associations between height and lung function later in life.

Mr Walker says: "The latest findings confirm our view that it is much more important for shorter people to take care with the heart disease risk factors, such as smoking, diet and high blood pressure and blood cholesterol levels."

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Despite a few remaining complications, in-flight telephone services are set to become a reality, Nick Nuttal reports

Calls from on high

Britain's GEC Sensors, European telephone companies and airlines are designing a telephone service for Europe's aircraft to exploit what David Stone, general manager of British Telecom International's Aeronautical and Maritime division, describes as "the last untapped market for telecommunications".

Doubts about sufficient frequency spectrum, technical harmonisation between telephone operators and the need for a Europe-wide airline provider, still need to be resolved, Mike Dawes, head of brands at British Airways, says.

Nevertheless, experts are becoming confident that pilot-in-flight phone services across western Europe will begin within two years. Full coverage, which requires the fitting of phones to about 1,000 aircraft, may be achieved by 1997.

The services, being spearheaded by British Airways, SAS, Air France and Lufthansa in conjunction with their national phone companies, may eventually offer not only passenger voice and data communications, but also car-hire bookings and shopping at 35,000 feet.

Mr Stone says the services also open up the possibility of real-time monitoring links between ground

crews and manufacturers for checking the running of the aircraft.

This summer, British Airways will bring the trans-Atlantic in-flight telephone service, Skyphone, into commercial service. While Skyphone uses satellites, Europe's planned network, the Terrestrial Flight Telephone System, will use cheaper, land-based stations, with in-flight handsets based on CT2 technology, the basis for British telephone systems.

Skyphone call costs are more than £5 a minute, but Mr Dawes says European services will need to be cheaper to be commercially viable.

William Mitchell, divisional manager of GEC Sensors of Basildon, Essex, which is designing and supplying on-board equipment, says the pilot scheme, scheduled for September 1990 on three aircraft, each with 15 handsets, will be supported by ground stations to be built by Alcatel, in London, Paris and Sweden.

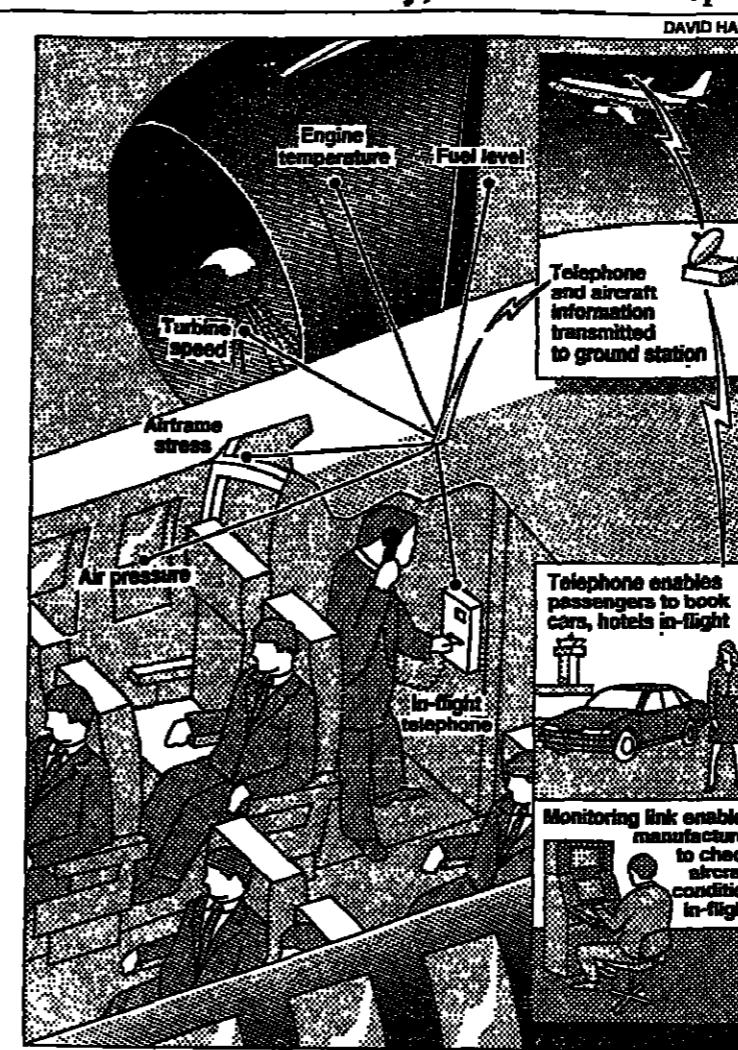
It has been calculated that, even with this limited infrastructure, 20 per cent of the passenger traffic between London and Paris will be served, because the extended "line-of-sight" possible between aircraft and ground stations is hundreds of miles. Full coverage for western

Europe will eventually require 50 ground stations, GEC Sensors has estimated, and it is expected that 100 airports will also install ground stations to handle calls when planes are on the ground.

Each plane will be fitted with an aerial, PABX exchange, a modem and a transmitter receiver to convey the signal to the ground.

Until the 1992 meeting of the World Administrative Radio Conference, companies involved will be lobbying hard for a widening of the allocated frequency from one megahertz to eight megahertz to meet the expected demand.

The creation of the single market in 1992 is expected to increase the number of passengers in transit, according to a survey presented last week to the European Commission's Telecommunication Information Industries and Innovation Directorate-General. Paul Knott, a consultant with the PA Consulting Group of London, which compiled the EC-backed report, says 40 per cent of businessmen would use in-flight telephones, "largely for notifying contacts of delays or itinerary changes or staying in contact with their offices".



Pups' suffering turns the tide on sea pollution



A weighty legacy: this seal pup is checked for disease

A study of the North Sea grey seals has been widened to include the effects of harmful chemical wastes

and the scientists recognise

that many have been tracked with radio monitors so his

researchers know the habits

and extent of the area covered

by the animals in hunting for

fish.

Dr John Harwood, head of

the research unit, says there is

evidence of high levels of

PCBs in the diet, causing

infertility in seals. There is

also concern that PCBs inter-

fere with resistance to disease,

especially in seal pups,

because seals have no immune

system in early infancy.

Dr Harwood says his group

has monitored the Isle of May

community since its inception

to determine the precise amount of PCBs in an animal.

Dr Harwood regards these

measurements as crucial if the

researchers are to find out

what proportion of PCBs

could be transferred to pups

during pregnancy and lactation.

The study will concentrate

on a population of 30 individ-

ually marked female grey seals

which breed every year on the

island. The three-year project

has been funded by the

Rechem company.

Although production of

PCBs is now tightly regulated,

estimates suggest that less

than 30 per cent of PCBs

produced since manufacture

began in 1929 have been

discharged into the environ-

ment or destroyed.

The remainder are still effec-

tively locked in the lubri-

cating oils, plastics, paints and

other products for which they

were used as an additive

because of their stability.

Why women are a better investment

Women working in information technology (IT) tend to remain with their employers for much longer than their male counterparts and are being recommended as a "better investment", according to a report published last week by the British Computer Society (BCS).

The survey of 750 women members of the BCS is the most comprehensive of its kind and shows that 44 per cent remained with their employer for at least nine years, compared with the industry average of two years.

Many companies are desperate to reduce the turnover of IT staff because of the high cost and difficulty of recruiting replacements.

The BSC findings may encourage companies to introduce policies to attract more women.

The survey was conducted among female members to establish a profile of the woman IT employee, her career requirements and the organisation she works for as part of the Women into Information Technology (WIT) campaign which aims to publicise and improve the opportunities for women.

The campaign has the financial backing of private-sector companies and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). An initial feasibility study made clear that the opportunities in IT may not be appreciated by women and that companies need to adjust their employment practices and career patterns.

A WIT working party examined recruitment techniques and reported that many IT employers were "wedded to restrictive selection methods" by focusing almost exclusively on candidates aged under 25 without family commitments.

ICL recruits from most degree disciplines and says that, of the 300 graduates hired in 1988, only 22 per cent were women and 28 per cent of undergraduate applicants in 1989 were female.

Various surveys have estimated that women make up less than a quarter of the IT staff employed in the private sector and about 20 per cent of freelance IT contractors.

The Central Computer & Telecommunications Agency (CCTA) says that 30 per cent of programmers employed by government departments are

JOBSITE

women, but only 14 per cent hold senior positions.

"This ratio is better than the private sector, but we recognise that the number of women achieving senior positions in the Civil Service is not high enough. We are trying to encourage government departments to think of more imaginative ways of operating schemes to encourage women," Colin Mudd, of the CCTA, says. However, the BCS survey found that an above-average number of members, 35 per cent, had achieved managerial positions.

It appears that salaries are on a par, regardless of gender. A previous survey by Computer Economics showed that salaries for lower-grade jobs, such as programmers and analysts, are the same for women and men. The salary differentials between the genders are small and, where there are differences, the experience of women is generally lower," Peter Stevens, managing director of Computer Economics, says.

The BCS report gives guidelines for attracting and retaining women. It says companies should introduce an equal opportunities policy "that works", substantial training and career development programmes and options to assist with family life, such as crèches, maternity leave and career breaks.

ICL this year gave a lead to the industry by introducing a career-break scheme of up to two years for all employees. A condition of the scheme is that the employee will be required to be available for at least four weeks each year and for training in every break year.

The Institute of Manpower Studies has studied some leading companies' policies and its report, "Good Practices in the Employment of Women Returners", points out that implementation of these schemes "has more to do with the growing recognition that women are a vital skills resource than the so-called demographic crisis".

It says that women have more "holistic attributes, for example, higher educational attainments, ability to work in teams and supportive attitudes towards colleagues."

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CONSULTANTS

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Benefits include bonus payable after one year's service, private medical insurance, annual season ticket up to five zones, four weeks' holiday per annum plus UK and Indonesian public holidays.

Please telephone Mariska O'Brien on 071-222 2371 for an application form."

Continued on next page

BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE
Technology Manager

This senior civilian post has been introduced to lead and direct the Information Technology and Communications Departments of the British Transport Police Force. The Manager will be responsible to the Deputy Chief Constable for the provision of continuous real time mainframe computer facilities (with an agreed availability level of 99.5%+) and in excess of 50 remote Local Area Networks throughout the Force. It is also part of the responsibility to provide a Force Radio network consisting of personal radios, mobile systems, VHF & UHF base stations, landlines and Control Room systems.

Applicants for the post should be qualified to degree level, with extensive managerial experience in computing and communications projects and with proven financial management ability. The salary on appointment is negotiable up to £31,735 and is reviewed annually. Benefits include valuable free travel on British Rail for appointee and family, together with further free and reduced rate travel on London Underground.

Applications, including full cv to:
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15 Tavist

Coffee debate could drive you to drink

Coffee could well carry a health warning that says "Do not believe all you read". The results of the latest research in the current issue of the *Lancet* cautions that too much coffee is a cause of infertility.

The advice adds to the growing list of conflicting wisdom about this beverage which may or may not give you heart disease, may protect you from some cancers but may cause others, may lower your cholesterol level, unless it is decaffeinated in which case it may raise it, may be linked to diabetes in children and may stimulate sex drive and fertility.

All of these findings have been reported in recent months and have often been met with a chorus of criticism from researchers waving reports that came to opposite conclusions. Meanwhile, people continue to consume more than 1.5 billion cups of coffee each day around the world, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

"There has been no sort of health move away from coffee at all," says Lawrence Eagles, a coffee analyst for London trader GNI. "The only trend is that there is a move toward higher-quality coffees."

Coffee remains one of the most studied food substances. More than 500 reports have been published over the past 40 years, but research is often criticised as being based on inexact studies of population groups and their behaviour. Thus, at first glance, a link may seem obvious if people who drink lots of coffee suffer heart attacks, but such factors as diet, lifestyle, cigarette smoking and family history must also be considered.

"These studies can be very contradictory because they often use ill-prepared protocols [guidelines] and very bad control groups," says Dr Euan Paul, a consultant for General Foods and chairman of the Physiological Effects of Coffee (PEC) committee, a Europe-wide group of scientists who study the beverage.

PEC reviews all the research that is produced and has found no definitive proof that coffee is either good or bad for you, Dr Paul claims. In addition, laboratory animals given enough caffeine to equal 60 to 100 cups of coffee a day have shown no adverse effects.

REUTERS

feats. "In general, whenever you find no adverse reaction to a chemical in animals, it is safe for humans," he says.

Dr Paul says one study that does seem to be valid concerned the method of preparing coffee. A Dutch report released last November found that coffee in which the boiling water and grounds are mixed directly can increase cholesterol levels by 10 per cent, compared with drinking filtered coffee or no coffee at all.

Scientists theorise that the interaction of boiling water and coffee could cause a chemical change that affects cholesterol. Coffee can contain as many as 500 naturally occurring chemicals, but most studies focus on caffeine, a mild stimulant that is also found in tea, chocolate and cola drinks. Scientists say that when consumed to excess — say, 15 cups of coffee a day — caffeine can cause anxiety, irritability and an inability to concentrate. Scientists are less certain about more lasting physiological effects.

A panel of scientists met under WHO auspices recently in Geneva to examine 24 different studies on coffee and cancer. They determined that coffee may protect against cancer of the colon and rectum and there is "limited evidence" that it may be related to cancer of the bladder.

A Boston University study last November on colon and rectal cancer found a 40 per cent lower risk among people who drink five or more cups a day.

A Norwegian study released in February concluded that middle-aged men who drink five or more cups of coffee a day may have a significantly increased risk of fatal heart disease. This study has come under attack because it was based in Scandinavia, where more coffee is consumed per capita than in any other region and where the preferred method of preparation is boiling.

A Finnish study just released, which found links between diabetes in children and mothers who were heavy coffee drinkers, was criticised for the same reasons. This report says Finland has the highest rate of coffee consumption and the highest incidence of diabetes in the world.

REUTERS

Scientists say that, when consumed to excess, caffeine can cause anxiety, irritability and an inability to concentrate

Technology has moved towards a goal that has been almost as illusory as the death of the silver image. For years technocrats have forecast the end of the photochemical process at the heart of traditional photography, and for years they have been wrong.

With the development of still-video photography, there has been an important advance towards the day when all images will be captured and stored in a universal electronic format.

Still-video photography is a cross between traditional photography and video. The camera looks and behaves as normal except that it is bulkier and heavier and incorporates a disc drive. This allows an operator to shoot up to 50 colour images on a two-inch floppy diskette.

The image data which is snapped by the still-video camera can be transmitted down a domestic telephone line and reassembled, or it can be transferred to a personal computer using a still-video disc player. The image can then be used for a variety of purposes such as visualising a design.

Images can be retouched and separated into primary colours for printing, and printed out on an ordinary laser printer or loaded into a desk-top publishing package.

The application is so new that no-one has yet decided whether to call the user a camera operator or a photographer. They will use the skills of the latter and the technology of the former.

Still-video is not to be confused with a similar process called video grab. The principle behind video grab is that it enables a frame to be gathered from a continuous stream of images, whether from tape or live broadcast.

But is the still-video camera another technical solution looking for a problem? The colour version of the camera has already gen-

DURING the past two decades or so, astronomers have become convinced that there is much more to the Universe than meets the eye. This invisible or "dark matter" has become the holy grail of modern cosmology.

Astronomers such as Oxford University's Professor Dennis Sciama, find it disquieting that the Universe should be made of matter whose properties are largely immune to scientific attack. In today's *Nature* he shows that some kinds of dark matter might leave a visible trail.

The evidence for dark matter goes back to the early part of this century, when Jan Oort, the Dutch astronomer, made a study of motion of stars near the Sun. He found there was an amount of unseen matter, betrayed by its gravitational influence, roughly equal to what could be seen. Since Oort's time, this phenomenon has been found again and again.

Astronomers have measured the speed at which gas orbits around the fringes of distant galaxies and discovered that it moves too fast: there has to be more mass in the galaxy than can be seen. Close pairs of galaxies orbit around each other too

quickly: the galaxies must weigh several times more than would be guessed from the amount of light they produce.

All this may seem somewhat circumstantial evidence, but, to astronomers, gravity is as tangible as light: they would rather assume something invisible is out there than that Isaac Newton's law of gravity is wrong. For many years Professor Sciama has championed the notion that the simplest ideas should be assessed first, and his favourite has been that dark

matter could be neutrinos. The mere fact that it is known to exist gives the neutrino an advantage over almost all other proposed solutions to the dark matter problem. If the neutrino has a mass, there is a good chance that it is also unstable, and after a long time disintegrates, producing an elementary quantity of light known as a photon.

Although these tell-tale photons are much easier to detect than the original neutrinos, they cannot be directly distinguished from the

background photons produced by stars.

The trick, which Professor Sciama attempts to solve in his report in *Nature*, is to find a way of distinguishing the dark matter photons from the ones whose origin is entirely conventional.

What Professor Sciama needs is some evidence of a constant level of photon generation throughout the galaxy. He now intends to enlist the help of colleagues to search directly for the characteristic photons he predicts. If they find them, it will amount to the first specific evidence of a particular explanation of dark matter.

DAVID LINDLEY
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Probing about in the dark

Continued from previous page

erated a great deal of interest among news agencies and newspapers.

Another major beneficiary of still-video will be the expanding desk-top publishing and graphics industry. A still-video camera can also be mounted on a rostrum and used for shooting artwork. The image file can then be loaded into a desk-top publishing system. This process is already in use, based on conventional desk-top scanners rather than still-video. The problem with scanners is that they are expensive, lack versatility and are tethered to the desk top.

A typical still-video application,

if it becomes cheap enough, would be in estate agency work. The camera could be used to take colour video shots of a property which would then be shown either printed or displayed on screen to prospective clients. When integrated with the latest multimedia desk-top presentation packages, it will be possible for sophisticated video brochures to be tailored to a particular client. However, the combination of the high-tech picture retouching and low-tech estate agents' blarney may not necessarily be a giant leap forward for the home buyer.

This highlights the issue of

copyright. Taking pictures from a television transmission — as in a video grab — can infringe a number of copyrights, such as those pertaining to transmission and production. The 1988 Copyright Act, however, says that if sufficient creativity and originality is added to the image taken, the copyright is transferred. The increased power of the personal computer will make complex image retouching and low-tech estate agents' blarney may not necessarily be a giant leap forward for the home buyer.

Still-video cameras are still too expensive for a mass market, especially if the cost of a video

camera is added. But prices are likely to fall and once they come within reach of the domestic market, home colour video systems may be produced which can print out family maps and with extra equipment, include the ability to manipulate images.

Nobody is suggesting this technology is superior to the traditional photographic process, but it is improving and it is better. Where no picture can be produced in time, still-video is certainly a reasonable compromise in certain situations: an acceptable quality for an acceptable price within the time available.

DOODLES OF PHOTONS PRODUCED BY STARS

The trick, which Professor Sciama attempts to solve in his report in *Nature*, is to find a way of distinguishing the dark matter photons from the ones whose origin is entirely conventional.

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DAVID LINDLEY
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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Continued From Previous Page

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These requirements are particular, but form part of a wider NHS Systems Plan designed to change the way in which Europe's biggest organisation manages its affairs.

Interested and looking for a challenge?

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above named Company is to be held at Remo House, 310-312 Regent Street, London W1, on the 29th June 1990 at 10.15 a.m. for the purpose of a meeting of the members of the above named Company to consider the winding up of the same.

A list of the names and addresses of the members entitled to receive notice of the meeting will be available for inspection free of charge at Remo House, 310-312 Regent Street, London W1, on the 28th June 1990 between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. Notice of the meeting will be given to the members by post on the 27th June 1990.

Prizes to be won at the meeting must be lodged at the Registered Office of the Company, Remo House, 310-312 Regent Street, London W1, on the 29th June 1990 before 11.00 a.m. on the 9th July 1990.

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Prizes to be won at the meeting must be lodged at the Registered Office of the Company, Remo House, 310-312 Regent Street, London

Favourites miss out in a coconut-shy finish again as the destiny of the World Cup becomes shaped by the penalty shoot-out

Overdoing the underdog act

From SIMON BARNES
IN NAPLES



I AM all in favour of underdog victories, but really, this World Cup has gone too far. What is there about this competition that has ensured that the cream keeps sinking to the bottom with a dull thud?

I am beginning to feel like Fred Trueman, which is a shattering experience, as you can imagine. For I'm nonplussed. I just don't understand what's going on out there. As soon as a side looks like scoring goals, playing delightful football and generally illuminating the watching world, it gets knocked out.

Clearly, the one thing to avoid in this competition is scoring goals and, especially, winning too many games of football. Just what exactly are Argentina doing in the final of the World Cup when they have only won two football matches?

Is there something about the system of the penalty shoot-out that brings about the triumph of mediocrity with such terrible regularity? Each repetition of this banal piece of sporting melodrama is a further denial of the point

of the sport that is being played here. It is like deciding a game of Test cricket with a session in a coconut shy.

Oh, they were exciting enough, these shoot-outs, when they were first invented. But like anything cheap and shallow, we have grown inured to them. They allow inferior sides to gain cheap victories. Argentina have managed this in successive matches.

This is more of a cheat than the infamous hand-of-God goal that Maradona scored in the previous World Cup. It is more of a cheat than Maradona's handball on the line that saved his side's bacon in the early stages of the competition.

What other excitements have there been? Well, Italy provided them for me. To be in Rome and watch Italy was wonderful: to feel the explosion of relief when too long a deadlock was at last broken, to feel the mad excitement of blazing-eyed Schillaci, all that was very fine.

One can enjoy the jingoism of another nation without guilt, without contempt. It

was a real delight to be in Italy and to share the country's enjoyment in each passing triumph. It is sad to see them go. A silly moment of flappy goalkeeping undid them, opened the way to penalties and the inevitable triumph of the lesser side.

Where have the joys been in this tournament? With Cameroon, certainly. Their match with England was, in terms of drama at least, the best of the tournament. In the end, the world will remember this tournament because of them. They have made a mark on footballing history, and the nature of this mark will be a third African side in future World Cups.

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One can enjoy the jingoism of another nation without guilt, without contempt. It

Schillaci? Well, that was his moment, that was. Simply, the force was with him for a while. The gods of the game decided to smile on a rather appealing crop-haired Sicilian called Toto. They are capricious beings, these sporting deities.

It was his moment, and he went for it with the alacrity of a striking viper. Now the moment has passed, life will never seem so sweet, or so easy for him again.

As for Maradona, how come sport's gods don't punish cheats? Or are they bidding their time, I wonder? That moment when Argentina seemed to have lost because of Maradona's missed penalty was as satisfying a moment of pure sporting malice as the time Mary Decker fell over Zola Budd.

But Maradona escaped. Now he is in the final. I begin to suspect that he has sold his soul to the devil. What a competition this has turned out to be, all that Maradona, and all those penalties. Ah well, no one ever said sport was supposed to be fair, I suppose... but it makes sport rather more satisfying when it is, don't you think?



Taste of defeat: Vicini chokes back the disappointment as Italy are knocked out

World Cup statistics

LEADING SCORERS: 5 Shukhev (USSR), Schillaci (It), 4 Matthijs (NED), Michel (Spa), Milla (Cam), 3 Klinemann (West Germany), Lutz (West Germany), 2 Gheorghe (Rom), 2 Stoenescu (Croatia) (Aust), Carvalho (Brazil), Josic (Yug), Llorente (Rom), Miller (Eng), Pancev (Yug), Plat (Eng), Radomir (Croat), Stanjekov (Yug).

SENDINGS-OFFS: A Kasai (Italy), B Meesing (Cameroon), V Arribalzaga; E Wimberly (USA), V Ivanov (Russia), V Sosulin; V Berezov (Soviet Union v Argentina); Khetsel Ghoshan (Bulgaria v Yugoslavia); P Armer (Austria v Uruguay); Vojen Deutsche-Yeo (South Korea v Uruguay); R Gomez (Brazil v Argentina); F Rajkovic (Netherlands v West Germany); P Vassiljevic (Yugoslavia v Argentina); L Mavrik (Czechoslovakia v West Germany); R Giusti (Argentina v Italy).

PLAYERS ON TWO BOOKINGS: Argentina, Batista, Caniggia, Olmoschoes.

PLAYERS ON ONE BOOKING: England: Beardley, Gascoigne, McMahon, Pearce, Ray, Sago, De Agostin, Ferri, Goss, Hoddle, Lampard, Martin, Berthold, Klinemann. Argentina: Goycochea, Sensini, Burruachaga, Mandrona, Senzuela, Simon, Troisi, Ruggeri.

WORLD CUP TV

TODAY

EUROSPORT 4-6 and 10-10.30pm: Semi-final highlights and preview to the final.

TOMORROW

EUROSPORT 10-10.30pm: Preview to the final.

How Naples woke from its dream

From RODDY FORSYTH IN NAPLES

AT LEAST the foreigners are cheerful, having enjoyed the bonus of an unexpected extra night's sleep. The ceaseless nocturnal festivities which had attended Italy's progress through the World Cup finals were curtailed with such abruptness by Argentina that even the grimy, teeming streets of central Naples were supernaturally silent in the early hours of yesterday morning.

The city council had arranged a lavish firework display in anticipation of what had seemed likely to be an inevitable Italian victory, and it went ahead against the magnificent backdrop of the bay and the Castell Dell'Ovo at the unlikely hour of two o'clock in the morning, but the spectacular was watched with enthusiasm only by tourists and the assembled football writers.

A few Neapolitans hung about on the fringes of the crowd but their gaze was blank; the pyrotechnics had desired most had failed to ignite in the Stadio San Paolo four hours earlier. Yesterday morning, when they woke up, the mood

had changed from introspection to self-laceration.

The biggest headline, an impressive four inches deep, belonged to *Corriere dello Sport* and did not require a translation: "Italia, no!" it thundered.

Others were more loquacious: "Red Spot for the Blues," proclaimed *Il Messaggero*, in an arcane reference to the significance of the penalty spot. The *Gazzetta dello Sport* had "Stopped 11 metres from the World Cup," or, as we would say, 12 yards.

The more serious morning newspapers confined their lamentations to a smaller print size, although the opinion was, if anything, heightened. "Evil penalties," said *Il Mattino*, which displayed its priorities by giving Italy's defeat greater prominence than the other main news story, "Apocalypse of Mecca."

La Repubblica put it this way: "Italy, the dream is finished." It was a theme repeated endlessly in all of the match reports, most of which conceded that the better team had won.

Avenues and boulevards in this capital of 10 million, virtually deserted moments earlier because everyone was watching the game on television, became a tidal wave of people waving flags and shouting, "Ar-ge-

niti."

Business returned to usual Wednesday morning and Argentinians looked forward to Sunday's World Cup final.

Buenos Aires riot mars celebrations

CELEBRATION of Argentina's World Cup victory in Italy turned into a massacre in which several hundred youths looted stores and police fired tear gas and made 182 arrests.

The violence began when a band of young men broke into a jeweller's shop on Tuesday evening near the obelisk that stands as the landmark and traditional rallying point. Clothing stores, record shops and other businesses were then looted.

Police fired tear gas at thousands of revelers, who responded with a barrage of bottles and rocks. Police declined to disclose the extent of injuries to them or those they arrested.

Seconds after Sergio Goycochea smothered Italy's last penalty shot on Tuesday, ecstatic Argentinians poured into the streets to celebrate the advance to the World Cup final.

Avenues and boulevards in this capital of 10 million, virtually deserted moments earlier because everyone was watching the game on television, became a tidal wave of people waving flags and shouting, "Ar-ge-

niti."

Business returned to usual Wednesday morning and Argentinians looked forward to Sunday's World Cup final.

Court of Appeal

Surprise over minister's powers

Regina v Secretary of State for Social Security and Another, Ex parte Stitt

Before Lord Justice Purchas, Lord Justice Butler-Sloss and Sir Patrick O'Connor [Judgment July 3]

The Secretary of State for Social Services was entitled to give directions under the Social Security Act 1986 that payments out of the Social Fund should not be made in respect of certain specified categories of need such as domestic help.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by Samuel Wesley Stitt from a dismissal by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (*The Times* February 23) of his application for judicial review of directions given by the secretary of state under the 1986 Act, as amended by the Social Security Act 1988.

Mr Richard Drabble for the appellant: Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr Richard McManus for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE PURCHASES said that the direction with which the appeal was concerned was that "A budgetary loan may not be awarded in respect of any of the following items of expense... (d) domestic assistance and care".

As a result of that direction the appellant's application for a grant towards the expense of his dependants aged two at times when he was attending an employment training scheme was never considered by its merits by the security fund officer (SFO).

The general scheme of Part III of the Act, as amended, had the heading "The Social Fund" and provided for payments to be made out of the fund in the case of maternity expenses, funeral expenses and cold weather expenses in prescribed circumstances and in prescribed amounts (sections 3(2)(a) and (2A); and in other cases payments to meet "other needs" which were to be determined by the SFO according to accordance with directions given or guidance issued by the secretary of state (sections 3(2)(b) and (8)).

It had to be noted that the words were "other needs" and not "all other needs".

Mr Drabble submitted that the powers to give directions was restricted to directions relating to the manner in which the SFO should determine whether a payment was to be awarded and how much it should be in each case falling under section 3(2)(b) and did not extend to directions defining those categories of needs in respect of which it applied to the SFO.

Thus, Mr Drabble submitted that by giving a blanket direction excluding all claims relating to expenses incurred for domestic assistance the secretary of state exceeded his powers granted to him under sections 32 and 33 and, effectively by subordinate legislation without any parliamentary control, circumscribed the fundamental right to have a claim for a need

considered by the SFO which was inherent in the scheme of Part III of the Act.

Bearing in mind the specific requirements for regulations, in accordance with section 83(4), that such regulations should be subject to annulment by resolution in either House of Parliament, Mr Drabble submitted that it was inconceivable that Parliament could have intended to grant the secretary of state an unlettered power to give directions in all other cases which would have the effect of withdrawing categories of need from consideration by the SFO at all.

Mr Beloff was unable to direct the court's attention to any previous Act of Parliament under which such wholesale unregulated and unsupervised powers effectively to pass subordinate legislation had been granted to a minister of state but he submitted that there had to be a first time for everything.

It was clear from the judgment of Lord Justice Woolf below that he felt surprised and concern at such a delegation by Parliament of its powers of supervision which, for his part, his Lordship shared.

It might be that in this case in the execution of the legislative process that "Homer nodded" with the result that wholly unregulated and unsupervised powers effectively to pass subordinate legislation had been granted to a minister of state but he submitted that there had to be a first time for everything.

In subsection (b), Parliament took to itself the definition of particular expenses which should be met and permitted the secretary of state, by regulation, to prescribe in greater detail the items and amounts, subject to annulment by resolution in either House.

In subsection (d), Parliament had decided to make a general power available to the SFO to make payments in respect of which it had been content to leave it

to the administrative discretion of the secretary of state to decide in respect of which needs support should be given by the fund and to give him powers to deal with that matter either by way of compulsory direction or by way of guidance.

That having been said, it was no part of the function of the court to import into the exercise of construing the intention of Parliament from the words of the statute any such sentiments however genuinely and justifiably held.

The limit to which the construction exercise could be so affected was that where an ambiguity was detected the court would lean against an interpretation which would have the effect of granting to the executive unbridled powers to pass subordinate legislation of that kind.

In section 32(2)(a) Parliament took to itself the definition of particular expenses which should be met and permitted the secretary of state, by regulation, to prescribe in greater detail the items and amounts, subject to annulment by resolution in either House.

In subsection (b), Parliament had decided to make a general power available to the SFO to make payments in respect of which it had been content to leave it

to the administrative discretion of the secretary of state to decide in respect of which needs support should be given by the fund and to give him powers to deal with that matter either by way of compulsory direction or by way of guidance.

LORD JUSTICE BUTLER-SLOSS, agreeing that it was surprising that Parliament should give the secretary of state extremely wide powers which were not express and had to be inferred from various sections of the Education (No 2) Act of 1986.

The Queen's Bench Court was held in refusing an application by Mrs Jill Dill-Russell and Mr Richard Cheney for judicial review of decisions of Warwickshire County Council that (i) all local education authority governors of county and special schools be reappointed or replaced (ii) Mrs Jill Dill-Russell would not be re-appointed as a governor and would be replaced and (iii) the decision whether to reappoint or replace Mr Cheney would be deferred.

Section 8 of the 1986 Act provides: "(5) Any... governor of a county, voluntary or maintained school appointed otherwise than by being co-opted, may be removed from office by the person or persons who appointed him."

LORD JUSTICE LEGGATT said that the words of the section were unrestricted on the face of the formal document which had been executed and seeking to supplement and contradict them by reference to contracts and duties of care alleged to have arisen by implication from conversations, press statements and other unsuspected traps into which the parties were alleged to have fallen.

It was to be stressed that any implied power of official delay, whether avoidable or unavoidable, when anticipated the conclusion of negotiations did so at his own risk.

LORD OLIVER, delivering the judgment of the Judicial Committee, said that it had been alleged that from events which occurred in the dealings of the parties there was to be concluded a conflict between the government and the appellants that the government would indemnify Rowe against any liability it incurred to its bank in

respect of expenditure on the project.

The claims which had been put forward rested upon the face of the formal document which had been executed and seeking to supplement and contradict them by reference to contracts and duties of care alleged to have arisen by implication from conversations, press statements and other unsuspected traps into which the parties were alleged to have fallen.

It was to be stressed that any implied power of official delay, whether avoidable or unavoidable, when anticipated the conclusion of negotiations did so at his own risk.

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the trial or hearing of a cause or matter if a refusal to exercise that power might oblige the party desiring to give the statement in evidence to call as a witness at the trial or hearing of an opposite party or a person who was at the material time the servant or agent of an opposite party.

A statement by a fellow servant admitting responsibility for damage caused by negligence in an accident at work due to the negligence of the employee.

Order 38, rule 29 provides: "(2) In the course of giving evidence in the trial or hearing of a cause or matter if a refusal to exercise that power might oblige the party desiring to give the statement in evidence to call as a witness at the trial or hearing of an opposite party or a person who was at the material time the servant or agent of an opposite party.

Mr Brian Lungstaff for the plaintiff; Mr David Barker, QC and Mr Mark Piercy for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE NOLAN, concurring, said that the action of the council had been to remove all governors and governing bodies had separate roles and that governors had the right and duty to act independently.

The only question was whether by the application of the principles in *Brunyate* the removal of the applicants as governors was unlawful because of the number of governors nominally in each political party continued to be in proportion with the representation of the parties on the council had changed.

In the instant case the lack of synchronisation and the difference in the composition of the council could not have been greater.

It was not only the applicants who had been removed but all such governors. In reality the true complaint of the applicants was not that they were removed but that they had not been re-appointed. However, at that stage party political considerations could intrude.

The term of office of all governors had been ended to facilitate better government. That was a legitimate purpose.

However, the exercise of the power as the result of an election would not always be legitimate. That would depend on all the other circumstances.

Solicitors: Bates, Wells & Braithwaite; M. D. G. Carter, Warwick.

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Council can replace school governors

Regina v Warwickshire County Council, Ex

The Times analyses the great shoot-out issue at the World Cup

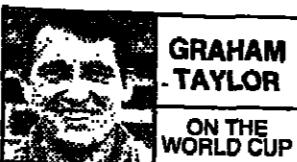
Penalties provide a dramatic test of nerve

Naples

AT ABOUT 11pm on Tuesday night in Italy, I realised that readers of this column over the last three weeks must be utterly confused about my knowledge of the game!

Having promoted Italy, for all kinds of reasons, as certain finalists and dismissed Argentina as fortunate even to qualify from their group, I watched Argentina hold Italy to a 1-1 draw after almost 130 minutes of football.

Argentina then had the audacity to floor me by winning the penalty shoot-out. Please do not ask me to explain this. Yet a number of other games I have witnessed



GRAHAM TAYLOR

ON THE WORLD CUP

throughout this competition have proved equally perplexing.

After winning their opening game against Argentina and losing to England last Sunday, the Camerounians must surely be as confused as I am. Let me just run through a number of matches which have not just caused surprises, but in which palpably the better team lost.

Cameroun started it all off with their victory over Argent-

ina on the first day. The following day Romania beat the Soviet Union after being outclassed in the first half. Costa Rica's win against Scotland and Egypt's draw with the Netherlands fudged the issue even further.

How could the United States lose by a only a single goal to Italy? The Soviet Union and Sweden began as firm favourites to qualify for at least the quarter-finals, yet finished bottom of their groups. Belgium were the better team against Spain and then England, but lost both games.

Brazil must still be wondering how Argentina beat them,

while all Yugoslavia had to do was convert one more penalty to win against Carlos Bilardo's team. Cameroon embarrassed England, and the Republic of Ireland frightened the life out of

to the uncertainty. Some people might not agree with it being an acceptable way to determine the result of matches, but I am happy enough with the system.

During the course of a game, a team can be a victim of inconsistent refereeing, a system requiring a mathematics degree in order to determine where the four best third-placed teams in each of the six groups might or might not be playing in the second stage, and you have the perfect recipe for the unexpected. It is small wonder why I (and, I suspect, many others) am at my wits' end.

The penalty shoot-out adds

have the penalty shoot-out played according to the laws of the game.

The law states that the goalkeeper must stand on the goalline and he may move his body but not his feet before the kick is taken.

That law is being broken at will in this World Cup. Ironically, I believe that if it was enforced correctly more penalties might be saved.

To argue that the shoot-out would take too long if referees ordered kicks to be retaken leads only to the question as to why have shoot-outs in the first place, if the most crucial part of a drawn match is not going to be concluded within the laws of the game. While

better chance of saving the shot, as opposed to the risk of diving early, but the wrong way, and leaving the taker with an unguarded three-quarters of the goal at his mercy.

I contend that the penalties have been saved in Italy and the offer of parmesan cheese on my pasta is now a thing of the past. There are more vexing matters weighing on the minds of Italian waiters.

the shoot-out adds excitement and tension, it creates confusion only if it is not held properly.

But, for me, confusion is what this World Cup has been about, and now the entire Italian population is equally mystified.

They had been led to believe there could only be one winner. How is Italy's defeat to be explained?

I suspect that room service and the offer of parmesan cheese on my pasta is now a thing of the past. There are more vexing matters weighing on the minds of Italian waiters.

Looking at the alternatives to shoot-outs

From DAVID MILLER IN MILAN

MY HEART goes out to Donadoni and Serena, of Italy, who innocently lost not a football match but a lottery and with it the aspirations of a nation. But their single kick each at a ball, which failed, in a game-device superimposed to suit commercial circumstances rather than the sporting ethics of the world's foremost competition, demands that the governing body has an immediate rethink.

João Havelange, the president of FIFA, said to me two days ago that changes for the penalty-kick system for deciding drawn matches in the World Cup will be discussed before the finals of 1994 in the United States. For the moment, discussion will be too late to prevent the possible absurdity of this summer's final also being decided by penalties.

The system bears no relation, controversially, to the two hours of play that have preceded it. It would be ridiculous, for example, for the final to be determined by a player who had taken almost no part in the contest, as was so when David O'Leary, a late substitute, scored the critical penalty for the Republic of Ireland against Romania in the second round.

Italy stands in mourning, after the elimination of their widely fancied team by Argentina on penalties in Tuesday night's semi-final here, drawn 1-1 at the end of extra time. It was the third match to be decided in this most unsatisfactory way, the others being Ireland and that of Argentina against Yugoslavia in the quarter-final.

In each instance, the allegedly inferior team has won; though in the case of Ireland and of Argentina on Tuesday it could not be convincingly argued that the losers had dominated the legitimate period of play. In their most coherent performance so far Argentina restricted the efficiency of Italy's supposedly superior midfield quartet while throughout the 120 minutes' play Maradona had Italy's defence running scared.

Having missed a penalty in the shoot-out against Yugoslavia - Argentina won by two failures to three - Maradona hit the decisive kick on Tuesday. The men who quite unfairly carry the burden of Italy's loss are Donadoni and Serena. Schillaci, the tournament's leading scorer, did not attempt a penalty as he had strained a groin muscle during the match; critically, just after Italy had already introduced their two substitutes.

There are a number of alternatives to the penalty system. The most obvious and fairest reflection of the preceding play, to my mind, would be by a tally of corner kicks conceded within the goal area. By confining such a system to the goal area rather than the whole of the byline, frivolous corners deliberately gained near the corner flag off a defender's shirt would be excluded. Within the goal area attackers are concentrating on attempting to score.

Such a change would have the reverse effect of the penalties system, which encourages weaker teams to defend and waste time in the hope that they will be lucky in scoring.

the shoot-out. An aggregate of corners would encourage attack; it would also discourage goalkeepers and defenders from casually turning the ball round the post or over the bar when not under pressure, and would thereby raise the risk level of defenders' judgment during normal play.

Significantly, if there was any doubt about whether a defender was inside or outside the goal area when conceding a corner, there would be time to consult video-tape recording without delayed play.

Everything about such a system makes it preferable to penalties, which place an isolated and intolerable responsibility on individuals to an extent that, in certain instances in the past, it has psychologically damaged the rest of their career. In a football-besotted nation, Donadoni and Serena will live with the distorted image of their so-called failure in the eyes of the watching world, of their countrymen and of their families for the rest of their lives. It is a grave injustice of administration to place upon individuals this contrived drama.

An additional criticism of the penalties system is that, at almost every kick, the goalkeeper moves, against the law, before the ball is struck. It is impossible for the referee, standing to one side, to see simultaneously the kicker and the goalkeeper. He could only observe both actions if he were to stand behind the kicker; and then he would not be in a position to judge marginal instances of whether or not the ball crossed the line,

though a linesman could do that. Goycochea, the Argentina goalkeeper, moved early on both the kicks he saved, especially the second; demonstrating the system to be unfair in practice as well as principle. It is ironic that Goycochea should become Argentina's most influential player after Pumpido broke his leg in the first round against the Soviet Union. Watching that match on television from Udine, where Spain had been playing South Korea in the afternoon, the Argentinian-born Alfredo Di Stefano, always a pragmatic man, was heard to observe unsympathetically as Pumpido was carried off: "Argentina's luck has changed. Goycochea is the better goalkeeper."

If FIFA will not consider an aggregate of corners, it would be better to continue play, after extra time, on a sudden-death system until one side scores. Failing that, it would be preferable to determine the winner by the respective disciplinary records. On Tuesday night, Argentina would have lost on corners and on disciplinary record.

Stefano, always a pragmatic man, was heard to observe unsympathetically as Pumpido was carried off: "Argentina's luck has changed. Goycochea is the better goalkeeper."

The inquest on Italy's failure will dwell on Vicini's selection. With hindsight, Italy's failure to win the match in normal time was based on two facts: Italy's inability to dominate midfield, and to pin down Maradona who, even unfit, was still the springboard of Argentina's threat.

Vicini will, frustratingly for him, be remembered for ultimate failure because, credit-

ably, he went for attack, contrary to the tradition of Italian football. He retained the midfield of De Agostini, De Napoli, Giannini and Donadoni, leaving the more physical Ancelotti, of Milan, on the bench; even when Giannini faded and was replaced by Baggio, Ancelotti, a hard man, would have put more bone in Italy's middle line against the uncompromising physical Argentinians.

It was probably a mistake, too, for Maradona to be marked alternately on right and left by Bergomi and Ferri. The switch-over of

Argentina profit from shoot-outs

ARGENTINA have reached the World Cup final on the strength of winning two matches in the orthodox way and on penalty shoot-outs: beating Italy 4-3 on penalties on Tuesday and Yugoslavia 3-2 on penalties last Saturday. But would they have won if any of the other suggested methods of splitting teams level after extra time had been used?

The answer is a resounding no on all counts. Whether the method of deciding the deadlock had been winning more corners, collecting fewer bookings or conceding fewer fouls.

In the semi-final, Italy won seven corners to Argentina's four, had one player booked to Argentina's five, one of whom, Ricardo Giusti, was subsequently sent off, and committed 31 fouls to the 38 of Argentina.

Yugoslavia also had a better set of statistics in the quarter-final match. They gained seven corners to four Argentinians - although Yugoslavia did have Relej Sabanadzovic sent off after first

being booked, and were penalised for 21 fouls to Argentina's 27.

Pat Bonner's save from Daniel Timoteo and David O'Leary's conversion of the match-winning kick for the Republic of Ireland in their second-round penalty shoot-out with Romania may have gone into legend, but the match statistics ran against Ireland.

They were level in the matter of bookings with two apiece, but committed 27 fouls to Romania's 18

Stealing first base in Cuban bastion

A FIVE-YEAR plan to popularise football is making its mark in the baseball citadel of Cuba. "There's no doubt about it, the World Cup is walking the streets, entering homes and taking over the street corners," the sports columnist Gilberto Dibadj, wrote in the Cuban workers' newspaper, *Trabajadores*.

"What? You say you're not infected? Do you argue about the red and yellow cards, do you get frenetic when the referee blows offside, do you yell 'Goooooooooo!' in a guttural scream that would make Tarzan proud? Yes? Then you've got it, the World Cup fever."

Football enjoyed a brief boom in Cuba in the 1930s when the Spanish-owned sugar mills fielded teams, and the country was invited to the 1938 World Cup in France.

The state-promoted plan to revive interest included buying the television rights for this and the next two World Cups, and importing coaches from Eastern Europe and South America. The target is the 1998 World Cup final.

Offer refused

ROGER Milla has said no to Walsall, Kenny Hibbitt, the manager of the fourth division club, revealed yesterday that he had made an approach for the 38-year-old Cameroun forward as an agent after England beat Cameroun in the quarter-final. "We were the first English club to make an enquiry. Unfortunately, Milla has been made a very good offer in Italy," Hibbitt said.

On the ball

AMONG the host of World Cup books on the shelves, now curling and going black round the edges like ageing lettuces, the most original is the *All Round World Cup Book*, published by Fantail Books. The only licence taken is that the book, rather than being round, looks like a punctured football - occasioned, presumably, by the need to prevent the copies rolling away.

Privateeer

THERE is a World Cup sup-

porter in London Under-

ground's Northern Line com-

munications headquarters. On

Sunday, passengers read the

West Germany v Czechoslovakia result on the system's

service information indicator

and last night, the "unofficial"

newscaster was in action again

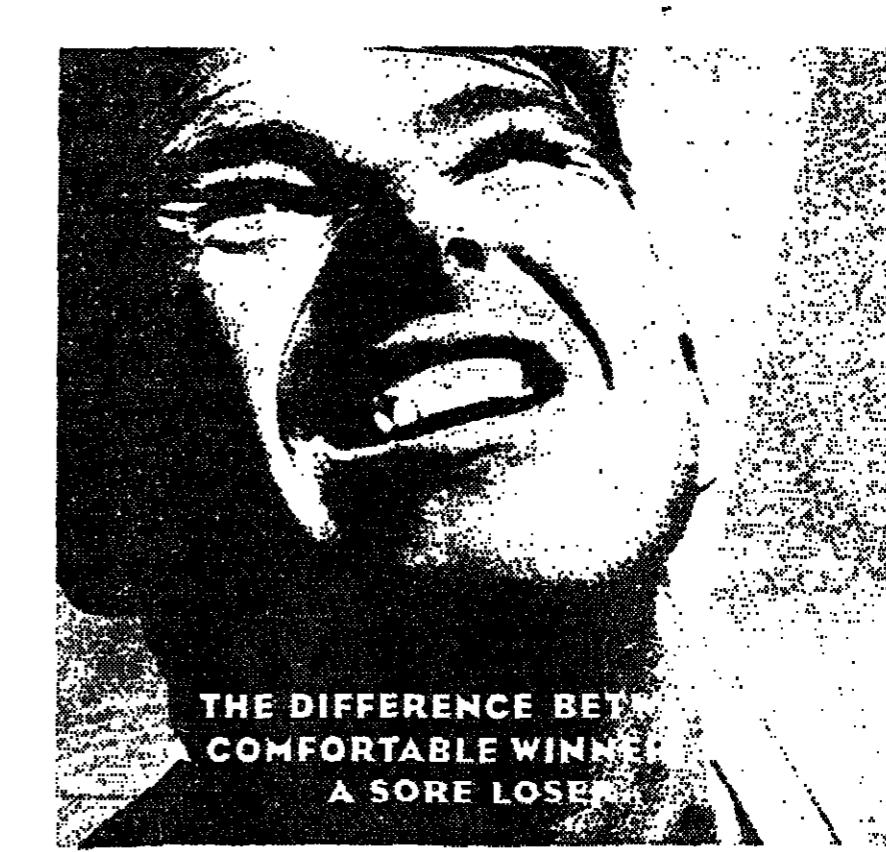
with the England v West Ger-

many semi-final score.

WALTER GAMMIE

Unlucky 17

PUT Italy's defeat by Argentina down to the unlucky number of 17 was the consoling advice of the Rome newspaper, *Il Messaggero*, yesterday. It was Italy's seventeenth match at Naples's San Paolo stadium.



THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
COMFORTABLE WINNERS
AND A SORE LOSER



When concentration is key, a coating of Vaseline Pure Petroleum Jelly can make all the difference. It protects areas like shoulders, nipples and thighs from the soreness caused by rubbing kit. To give you more of a sporting chance.

Not even the US coastguard boat can stay on course on a wet and windy day at Henley Royal Regatta

Downfall of the man from Great Falls

By MIKE ROSEWELL

UMBRELLAS rather than Pins and fashions were the prominent features at a rainy and windswept Henley yesterday morning. Spectators were worried about the rain but the competitors were more concerned about the unpredictable headwind which caused grief to two overseas crews before lunch.

Tony Bojilov and Ivaliov Banchev, of Bulgaria, the world junior silver medal winners last year, had steering problems from the start of their double sculls against Mark Alloway and Chris Williams, of Tideyway Scullers. In spite of attempted illegal instructions from their coaches in the umpire's launch, the Bulgarians, on the Bucks station, hit the booms at the top of the island and Alloway and Williams went into a five-length lead.

Setting off in pursuit, the Bulgarians gained ground swiftly but were steering erratically and directly behind their opponents. Understanding the rules of racing, Alloway and Williams eased and allowed the Bulgarians to hit them just after Fawley, giving the umpire, Mike Sweeney, no choice but to disqualify them.

The United States Coast Guard Academy made an even swifter and spectacular exit from the Henley Prize event in their race with the seeded Brentwood College School, Canada. After some five strokes, their two-man, Greg Hobbs, perhaps apidly from Great Falls, Montana, caught his blade on a buoy and was lifted out of the boat. The cox, Bryan Gavini, said: "The wind blew us over and we lost control of the boat."

With some \$20,000 spent on the trip, it was an expensive few strokes for the Coast Guard Academy.

Willie Ross, coach to the Elizabethan BC crew, did not fit his high-tech tanker bow attachment for his crew's opening race against London RC B in the Thames Cup. Elizabethan won without it. Ross, known as a prankster, interested the photographers with his "invention" on the eve of the regatta.

His crew's exit from the boat tent on a test outing did not please the New Zealand crew entered in the Grand Eights or the Imperial College Henley Prize eight. Elizabethan caught their rigger on the

New Zealand boat and pulled it off the rack on to the lower Imperial College craft. Both were damaged, causing particular concern for the IC coach, Billy Mason, who had an early morning heat yesterday.

Mason, albeit with a broken ankle, got the repairs completed and his seeded crew looked comfortable in beating Shrewsbury School.

Seeded crews generally had a good day, although Cappoquin RC from Ireland caused a big upset in the Britannia coxed fours by beating the selected Rob Roy. The Irish were half a length down at the barrier but their stroke, Pat Pellow, pushed hard to the Half Mile and broke the Cambridge-based crew. Cappoquin's captain, Dan Murray, extolled the virtues of his "smallest rowing club in the world", based 40 miles from Waterford.

In the blustery conditions, Nereus, of the Netherlands, and Upper Thame, both in the Thames Cup, produced the joint fastest time of the day, 7min 11sec.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS FROM HENLEY

Thames Cup

Holders: Univ of London

First round
Thames Tradesmen's A bt Bedford, 7/4, no time taken
Vesta bt Thames B, easily, 7min 1sec
Jesus & College, Cambridge bt City of Oxford B, 3/1, no time taken
Elizabethan of London RC B, 5/1, 7:22
Cheviot & Sons of Thames, 2/4, 7:37
Tideyway Scullers School bt Tyne TC, easily, 7:40

Garrisoner bt Trinity College, Hartford, 2/4, 7:41
Upper Thame bt Weybridge, 2/3, 7:50
Nottingham and Union bt Bewdley, easily, 7:50
Lee & Globe, easily, 8:00

Grosvenor bt Star Club, easily, 8:14

Club D'Avrion de Laval, Canada bt Sons of Thames, 2/3, 8:20

London RC S & W, easily, 8:22

Palm Beach, US, bt Farnham Sculling Club, 8/3, 8:25

Tideyway Scullers' School bt Marlow, 8/3, 8:25

Quintin bt Bedford B, 1/4, 7:53

Thames Tradesmen's B bt Vesta B, 1/4, 8:15

Wellington bt Vesta disc, no time taken

Bedford A bt Upper Thame B, 3/1, 8:12

London A bt Thames Tradesmen's A, 2/4, 7:38

Type of National Westminster Bank, 4/3, 7:58

Walton or Modisca Anglican and Alpha, 3/1, 7:28

Aberconwy at Nottingham Univ, 2/1, 7:26

Galway, Ireland at Kent, 7:32

Amsterdamse Studenten, Neth, bt Nottingham, 2/1, 7:31

Thames A bt Royal Chester, 4/1, 7:28

Walton or Modisca Anglican and Alpha, 3/1, 7:28

Henley Prize

(new event)

First round

Eton College & Lady Margaret BC, Cambridge, 1/1, 7min 12sec

Imperial College, London, bt Shrewsbury School, 1/1, 7:14

Pol B, 7/1, 7:13

Brentwood College School, Canada, bt United States Coast Guard Academy, US, not rowed out, 7:51

Orange County College, US, bt Univ Coll Oxford, 1/1, 7:22

Tideyway College Dublin, Ire, bt Selwyn College, Cambridge, 2/3, 7:53

Cappoquin, Ire, Rob Roy, 2/3, 7:53

Star Rowing at Mystic Valley, US, easily, 8:17

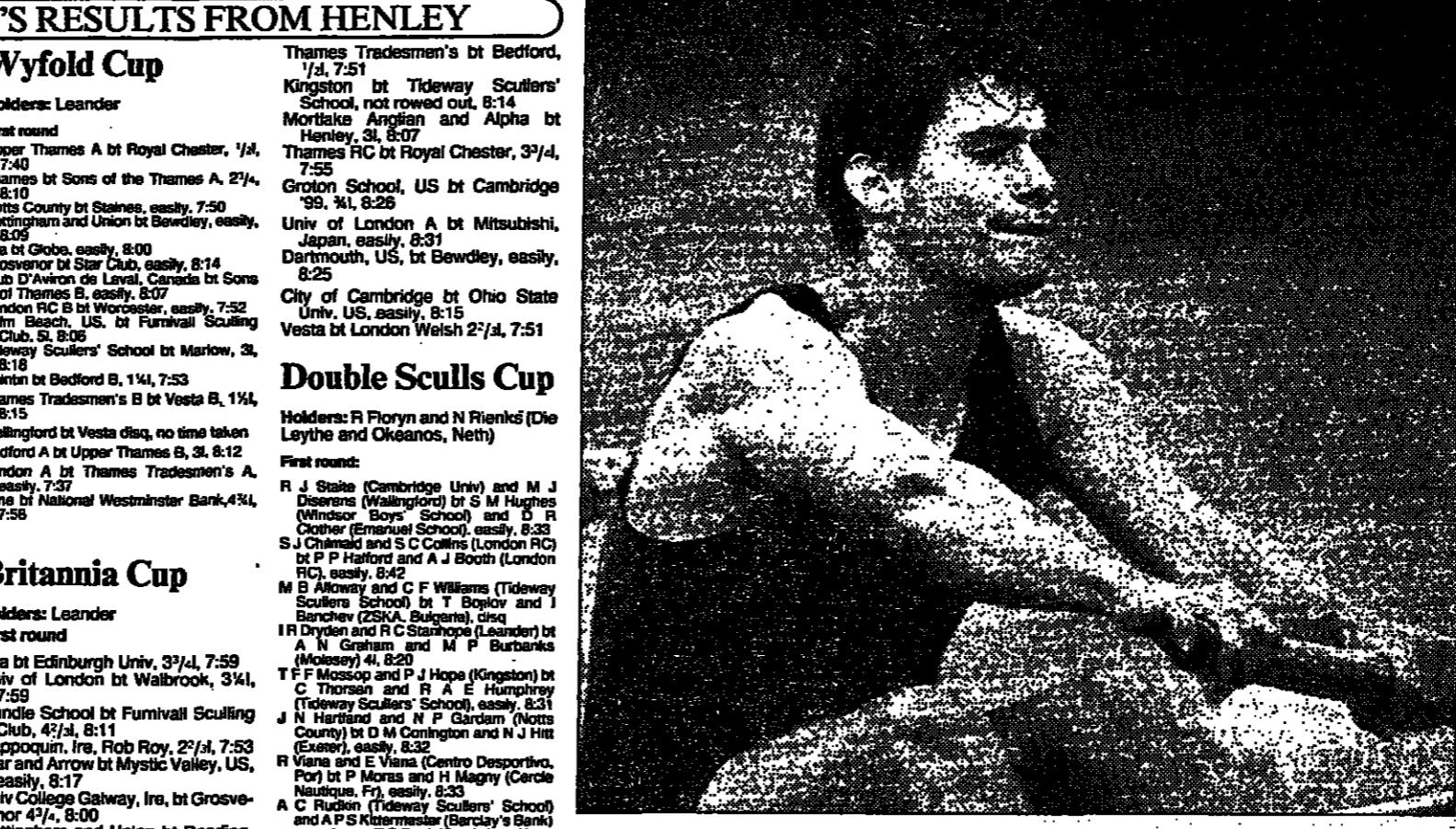
University of Galway, Ire, bt Grosvenor, 4/3, 8:00

Nottingham and Union bt Reading, 4/1, 8:18



That sinking feeling: Charles Hunt, two-man of Sons of the Thames A, looks across at their opponents to see their Wyfold Cap hopes drift away

PHILIP HARRIS



Powerful stroke: Pezzer, of Cherwell BC, in action against Sons of the Thames

SPORT FOR THE DISABLED

Five gold medals and record for Moreton

By JANE WYATT

DAVID Moreton, aged 17, became the first physically disabled swimmer to complete the 100-metre free-style in under a minute, at the British Sports Association for the Disabled/British Telecom senior national swimming championships in Darlington on the weekend.

Moreton, from Coventry, who is a below-the-knee amputee, swam the 100-metre race in 58.9sec. He then went on to win five further gold and two silver medals.

Moreton "may be young, but he is not lacking in international experience, having represented Britain at the Seoul Paralympics and at the World Youth Games in Miami last December. He will be competing in the world championships at Assen in The Netherlands in two weeks, along with other swimmers who took part at Darlington. They include Beverly Gills, of London, Tim Walton from Nottingham and Claire Steer, from Middlesex, who collected four gold medals each.

The event was very much a preview of the form of our swimmers in anticipation of the world championships. Of the 35-strong British swimming squad, 31 competed at Darlington and the strength of their performances has left their coaches hoping they have not peaked too soon. Gilbert Andrew, from Camberley, took six golds and Philip Stedman, of Woking, won five.

Other swimmers not involved in Assen also produced some outstanding results, including Monica Vaughan, from Portsmouth, who helped herself to eight gold medals, Murray Campbell, from Nottingham, who took seven, and Albert Hendrie, of Liverpool, who won six.

Entries to the national championships were the highest ever with 148 competitors from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. As the only national event open to swimmers with any type of disability a functional classification system was implemented, with officials provided by the Amateur Swimming Association.

In addition to the serious competition, Duncan Goodhew, a vice-president of the Association, captained a BSAD side against a side from BT. Not surprisingly, the sponsors took a resounding beating in the face of the combined expertise of Goodhew and company, but at least provided the swimmers with some light entertainment before the serious business of winning for Britain begins in The Netherlands.

SPORTS LETTERS

Revert to old referee system

From Mr P. S. Newton

Sir, The suggestion of your leading article (July 3) that the referee should copy what a television monitor will only further disrupt the flow of the game and undermine his authority

Fair better to revert to the original system of control in force up to 1891 of two umpires, each running level with the second defender and moving inside the field of play as in hockey, doing away with the linesmen. In the latter's place could be two goal judges standing on the goalline at the six-yard line, judging whether the ball passes wholly over the line between the goalposts — the most important decision of all.

I demonstrated this system in 1966 to the late Sir Stanley Rous, who was then president of FIFA. He fully accepted the idea, agreeing that the diagonal system he introduced in 1935 was out of date because of the speed of the game and tactical systems.

Shortly before his death in 1986 he said that he believed it would be introduced before the end of the century.

Yours sincerely,
PIP NEWTON,
3 Lindum Close,
Aldershot, Hampshire.

Minister out of touch with English supporters

From Mr M. A. Stein

Sir, I travelled to Bologna to see the England v Belgium game on the same plane as Colin Moynihan, the minister for sport. He had ample opportunity to sound out the views of the rest of the supporters on the flight but preferred not to. Nor did he apparently take that opportunity during the rest of his trip. I fail to see therefore, how he can possibly feel compelled to comment on the behaviour of English supporters.

Throughout the day in Bologna, the massed support of Belgian and English supporters mixed freely without any trouble whatsoever. Within the ground there was only one minor incident and, having personally spoken to several of the English supporters who were sitting in close proximity to the trouble, it was quite clear to me that this began as an organised attack on the English supporters by a small minority of the Belgian supporters.

The police presence in Bologna was awesome. The last half a mile to the ground had to

be walked along streets lined with open topped police cars each surrounded by a policeman with a machine gun.

There is no doubt that such precautions were taken because our minister for sport has instilled a fear in the foreign authorities of our football fans which goes far beyond the bounds of reason.

He has instilled that fear because he is fearful himself and because he is so totally out of touch with the views of the individual supporters.

Mr Moynihan has expressed his own personal views in the House of Commons and reports speak of his desire to support the people. I believe that most people, like myself, were absolutely appalled by the scenes of police violence against innocent English supporters in Rimini and were even more appalled by Mr Moynihan's observations that an individual arrested a mile from the trouble should simply not have been there because he knew there was going to be trouble.

Yours faithfully,
M. A. STEIN,
Finers (Solicitors),
179 Great Portland Street, W1.

Unpleasant chorus

From Mr Aidan Kearney

Sir, The entire tone of Clive White's report from the Irish camp in Rome (June 30) was derogatory and unnecessary. Surely the success of teams such as Ireland, Costa Rica, and Cameroon, those once considered on the fringes of international competition, speaks volumes for the success of football generally, and therefore the success of these World Cup finalists.

Furthermore, Mr. White seems to disagree with the tactics attempting to stifle the Irish midfield. In any competitive environment a team must play to its strengths if it is to have any expectation of winning. Surely not allowing the opposition to play well and maintaining the cleanest discipline fits into this requirement.

Yours faithfully,
AIDAN KEARNEY,
179 Tollgate Road, E6.

From Mr J. A. Brennan

Sir, The less the pleasantries of the reporting of the World Cup has been the constant sniping of English journalists at the qualifications of the Irish players.

Simon Barnes, adding his voice to the unpleasant chorus (July 2), fails to know that one third of the Irish team were born in Ireland; the rest qualify according to international regulations. These have chosen to play for Ireland and it is simply not true to say that it is because they have given up hope of playing for England.

The Irish football team chose to visit the Pope dressed in track-suits.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. BRENNAN,

St Clare,
Sandfield Park,
Liverpool.

Better ways to unravel ties

From Mr John Virgin

Sir, No one can possibly consider the penalty shoot-out a satisfactory way to decide the result of a major football match.

It does football no service to see a side which has been forced to defend its line for most of the 120 minutes allotted, often as a deliberate policy, secure a victory.

I suggest that a FIFA-appointed panel attend matches where a positive result is required and where there is no opportunity for a replay. This panel would be responsible for a points tally of the game in progress and would appear on the scoreboard adjacent to the goal count.

With three points awarded for every corner and a point deducted for every free kick given away, a tied game would be awarded to the team with more points. Should that also result in a tie, then the panel could bring the match to a conclusion by a draw.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN VIRGIN,
36 Eden Road,
Haverhill, Suffolk.

The first match

From Mr R. T. Rivington

Sir, Games described as football were played in different parts of Europe during the last two millennia: one of these is that referred to by Mr. Santiago.

Yours faithfully,
R. T. RIVINGTON,
3 Carlton Road,
Surrey.

Extended leave

From Mr R. T. Argule

Sir, Irrespective of the football itself, I am interested to learn how those variously described as "supporters", "fans" or "hooligans" (take your pick) could be brought into consideration. In the unlikely event of that too being equal then the panel would rely on a scoring system devised by FIFA which would award the game to the side with the most skill, similar to boxing.

Such a system would reward an individual player of the ignominy of missing a penalty and would assure a period of exciting play during which the attacking and defensive skills of both teams would be well tested.

Yours faithfully,
R. T. ARGULE

12 Edward Road,
Market Harborough,
Leicestershire.

Great deeds

From Captain R. C. Todhunter

RN (retired)

Sir, Your examples of high speed scoring (June 30) did not include a feat previously recorded in the *Guinness Book of Records*, but dropped from the latest edition.

In the match Royal Naval College Dartmouth v Seal Hayne, K. A. Sellar (later Commander (Pilot) Sellar, DSO, RN) and L. K. A. Block (later Judge Block, DSC) were set to score 174 runs in 105

Scoring goals is object of game

From Mr N. Bowers

Sir, I am annoyed that the reaction to England's victory over Belgium (June 28) was to dwell on the alleged "injustice" of that result in particular, and others in general.

Surely the object of a football match is to win by scoring more goals than the opposition. If the term justice has any place in the equation, it is as defined by the object of the game. The "just

Clouds gather over a Test cricket series upstaged by more dramatic events elsewhere

Good knight's last goodbye

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE melancholy sight of Edgbaston's giant cover, stretched like a grey mask across the rainswept ground yesterday, did nothing to dispel the notion that this summer's first Test match series is destined to join the list of great sporting non-events.

In World Cup year, there was always a chance that this brief encounter with New Zealand would fail to rivet the nation. In such persistently foul weather it would not even have registered but for the knighting of Richard Hadlee. Now, if the woeful forecast for the next few days is accurate, we can mark this down as a 0-0 draw with none of the kneekick, tie-breaks and penalty shoot-outs employed in other arenas this week.

Birmingham certainly seems to be voting with its feet. Last year's Australia Test here brought in £670,000. Revenue for this game is barely at the £300,000 mark, still £150,000 below the Test and County Cricket Board's budget figure, despite an unprecedented amount of newspaper advertising.

Warwickshire, whose organisation of the big occasion is second to none, remain hopeful that Hadlee's last farewell, and the element of sudden death within this game, may keep the turnstiles busy if the sun decides to shine. But even their optimism does not stretch to the thought of

Edgbaston was a big chill in 1965

By SIMON WILDE

STRANGELY, New Zealand have played only two previous Test matches at Edgbaston, Birmingham, and the most recent of those was 25 years ago. Since then, their Test appearances in the Midlands have been confined to Nottingham. Conversely, on this tour they have found themselves asked to play Tests in both cities.

Both earlier matches, in 1958 and 1965, were played at a time when New Zealand were still searching for their first victory in this country, and were won easily by England. The surprising thing was that in the later

TEST CAREER AVERAGES

England batting and fielding

	M	I NO	R HS	Avg	No	Ct	St
MA Atherton	17	25	278	120	50	1	1
PAJ DeFreitas	17	25	100	40	54	1	1
NH Fairbrother	6	7	59	33	53	1	1
GA Gooch	77	139	54974	196	37.11	8	1
EE Hemmings	283	107	19	56.36	33	1	1
AJ Lamb	30	23	1	23.00	1	1	1
MD Malcolm	13	10	3611	137	36.11	11	1
DC Russell	7	10	5	35	12	7.00	1
GCA Small	12	16	4	588	128	34.58	1
RA Stewart	14	11	100	143	59	2	1
AJ Stewart	6	11	1	283	54	23.30	1

England bowling

	Balls	R	W	Avg	BB	10m	2
MA Atherton	54	34	0	45.07	5-53	12	1
PAJ DeFreitas	1695	647	14	46.21	10-12	1	1
NH Fairbrother	77	139	1	56.36	33	1	1
GA Gooch	283	107	19	56.36	33	1	1
EE Hemmings	30	23	1	23.00	1	1	1
AJ Lamb	13	10	5	35	12	7.00	1
MD Malcolm	12	16	4	588	128	34.58	1
DC Russell	7	10	5	35	12	7.00	1
GCA Small	14	11	100	143	59	2	1
RA Stewart	6	11	1	283	54	23.30	1

New Zealanders — batting and fielding

	M	I NO	R HS	Avg	No	Ct	St
M D Crows	14	9	52	72.00	1	1	1
A H Jones	14	9	52	61.00	1	1	1
K Rutherford	7	11	5	32.50	54	4.83	1
J G Wright	13	2	583	121	53.00	1	1
J H Jones	8	31	77	21.50	2	2	1
J Franklin	10	15	3	31	77	21.50	2
R J Hadlee	4	4	183	90	45.75	2	2
J J Crowe	15	4	453	132	44.81	1	1
M Pritchard	9	12	381	85	34.63	1	1
S A Thomson	5	4	32	20	32.00	1	1
A C Parore	6	4	0	89	42	24.75	1
M C Sneddon	4	4	2	34	21.50	1	1
C Pringle	4	1	0	6	6	6.00	1
D K Morrison	6	4	2	7	5	3.50	1
W Thompson	2	1	1	17	17	17	1
J P Matthews	5	1	1	2	2	2	1

Source: TCCB/Gulf

cover from the fever afflicting him yesterday, England could give Lewis his long-awaited debut. Alternatively, or even additionally, they could decide that Fraser's fitness is no longer in question and restore him to his rightful place as third seam bowler.

Micky Stewart, the manager, indicated last night that this was a serious possibility despite the original assertion that Fraser would not play. "He has another game under his belt now, which could change the situation. If he was brought into the 12, then certainly he could play, depending on the pitch conditions."

Fraser's return would give England an undoubted boost and, although Stewart would not be drawn on the prospect, it could well be that the selectors will nominate four quick bowlers and leave out Hemmings. On the other hand, a fit DeFreitas would allow England to retain the same side for the third consecutive Test, something they have not managed in a home series for 12 years.

As an antidote to England's mournful record of one win in 25 home Tests, it can be pointed out that Edgbaston is their favourite venue. Of 26 Tests on this ground, they have won 14 and lost only two, the first of which was against Australia in 1975, when Gooch made a "pair" on his debut.

New Zealand have not played here since 1965, when they lost by nine wickets. The salient factors of England's performance are worth recalling as they are unlikely to be repeated this week: a batsman was dropped for taking too long to score a century and a part-time leg-spin bowler took six wickets.

Bob Barber was the wicket-keeper. He is a Lancastrian just like England's latest wrist spinner, but the chances of Atherton emulating the feat rather depended on Gooch being prepared to give him the ball.

It was the late Ken Barrington who lost his place, having scored 137 in seven hours 20 minutes. Trevor Franklin's century at Lord's ten days ago took a little longer

— a perfectly acceptable rate of progress. The other was that the weather was so cold on the second day (the match had begun on May 27) that the players were served hot drinks on the field.

Both earlier matches, in 1958 and 1965, were played at a time when New Zealand were still searching for their first victory in this country, and were won easily by England. The surprising thing was that in the later

test in 1965, when New Zealand were kept waiting for their win until the fifth day, after a New Zealand rally which involved seven of the first eight in their order passing 40 in the second innings.

There were two unusual aspects to the 1965 match. One was that Ken Barrington was dropped after the same for scoring 137 in 437 minutes, now a perfectly acceptable rate of progress. The other was that the weather was so cold on the second day (the match had begun on May 27) that the players were served hot drinks on the field.

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